

Learning from the Past for Our Future: Our Temple's Journey from Gakuin to Today – Senshin History (Part 4)



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 occasions, this is a meaningful 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, our temple's *50th Anniversary Book* published in 2001, and a summarized historical timeline on our temple website.

In the last three issues of *Prajna*, I presented a timeline covering the years 1928 to 1944 (February issue), 1945 to the early 1970s (March issue), and the 1970s to 2001 (April issue). We are now preparing a timeline from 2002 to the present. It will be provided with our 75th anniversary reception booklet.

As a brief review, our temple began in 1928 as a branch of what is now Nishi Betsuin, and became an independent temple in 1951. From its founding, this year marks our 98th year, and from independence, our 75th anniversary.

From the founding through independence, there were many significant milestones: the purchase of the temple property, the construction of the present social hall, which served as a worship space, classroom, and gathering place, and the experience of relocation during World War II (1942–1945).

After returning from the internment camps, the *Issei* and *Nisei* rebuilt the temple and its sangha, expanded the property, and achieved independence in 1951. The *Hondo* was later constructed in 1966.

From the 1970s, the surrounding community began to change, and many members moved away. In the 1980s, programs such as the Japanese school and Boy Scouts were discontinued. However, thanks to the continued support of Senshin families and friends, the temple not only endured, but our bonds grew stronger, helping to enliven the temple. The *Mon* was built as a 40th anniversary project, and a Teramachi condominium project was initiated in 2001, the year of our 50th anniversary. These years include many notable events and meaningful stories.

As I worked on the timeline from 2002 to 2026, I noticed there were fewer major events compared with

earlier decades. One of the most significant was the retirement of Mas-sensei after 45 years of dedicated service. In recent years, our focus has been on sustaining and caring for what we have received, including refurbishing and remodeling the *Hondo*, social hall, and educational buildings. The parking lot has been repaved several times, at least three times in the 13 years since I have been at Senshin. What we newly built was the *Nokotsudo* in 2007, and we expanded the parking area in 2020.

Compared with the dynamic changes of the 20th century, our temple has entered a period of stability. Today, we continue to cherish and care for what has been passed down to us by our predecessors.

I am not sure how much our *Issei* and *Nisei* thought of us. I do not think they were thinking, “For the members of the 75th anniversary generation, let us build this temple.” They built the temple as a place for Dharma learning and joyful gathering for themselves.

Yet because they enjoyed learning the teaching and gathering at the temple, we in the next generations have come to feel the temple is a joyful place to come. Because the pioneers took such great care to sustain and expand the temple, we also feel it is an important place, and we wish to care for and maintain it.

We may think only a little about the members of the 100th anniversary generation, but so long as we enjoy learning the Nembutsu teaching, *Obon*

dancing, the teriyaki chicken sale, and other temple activities, these will naturally be passed down to the next generation, and they too will enjoy coming to and sustaining the temple. In this way, we can help share the teaching with those who come after us. This is the great guidance we have received from our predecessors, so please continue to enjoy coming to the temple.

In conclusion, I would like to share a passage from the *Kyogyoshinsho*, Shinran Shonin's major work. With the hope of sharing the teaching, in its final part Shinran Shonin quotes Master Tao Cho, a Chinese Pure Land master (6th–7th century): “*Passages on the Land of Happiness*” states:

“...those who have been born first guide those who come later, and those who are born later join those who were born before. This is so that the boundless ocean of birth-and-death be exhausted.”

Namoamidabutsu

過去に学び、未来へつなぐ

—洗心の歩み：学院から今日まで(第四回)

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。今月末に記念法要および行事が行われます。

**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。

これまでの過去3号で、1928年から1944年(2月号)、1945年から1970年代初頭まで(3月号)、そして1970年代から2001年まで(4月号)の歴史年表を紹介してきました。現在は、2002年から現在までの年表を準備しており、それは、75周年祝賀会の冊子に掲載する予定です。

簡単に振り返りますと、私たちのお寺は1928年に現在の口サンゼルス西本願寺別院の支院として始まり、1951年に独立寺院となりました。創立から数えて今年で98年、独立から75周年となります。

創立から独立に至るまでには、多くの重要な節目がありました。寺地の購入、現在の会館(本堂、教室、社交場として使っていました。)の建設、そして第二次世界大戦中(1942~1945年)の強制収容の経験です。

収容所から戻った後、一世・二世の方々はお寺とサンガを再建し、敷地を拡張し、1951年に独立を成し遂げました。その後、1966年には本堂が建立されました。

1970年代以降、周辺地域は変化し、多くの門信徒が別の場所へ引越して行くようになりました。そのため、1980年代には日本語学校やボーイスカウトも終了しました。しかし、洗心寺のご門徒や友人方の変わらぬ支えのおかげで、お寺は存続しただけでなく、むしろ絆は深まり、より活気ある場にしてきました。山門は40周年記念事業として建立され、50周年を迎えた2001年にはリトル東京の寺町コンドミニアム計画も始まりました。

2002年から2026年は、以前に比べて大きな出来事は少ないです。特に大きな出来事は、2013年にマス先生が45年の奉職を経て退職されたことです。今世紀に入ってからは、一世・二世から受け継いできたものを維持し、大切に守ることに力を注いできたように思えます。本堂、会館、教育棟の改修や改装、また私が洗心に来て13年の間だけでも少なくとも3回は駐車場の舗装をやり直しています。新たに建立したのものとしては納骨堂(納骨堂)があり、2020年には駐車場も拡張しました。

お寺の草創期や戦時期、成長期などに起こった20世紀の大きな変化と比べると、今は安定の時代に入っているとと言えるでしょう。今日、私たちは先人から受け継いだものを大切に守り続け、次の世代に渡していこうとしています。

一世・二世の方々、どれほど私たち後の世代を意識しておられたかは分かりません。「75周年にお寺に来てる世代のために寺を建てよう」と考えていたわけではなかったでしょう。むしろ自分たちのために、仏法を聞く場、皆で集う場として寺を築かれたのだと思います。

しかし、その方々が教えを聞き、寺で集うことを楽しんでおられたからこそ、次の世代である私たちも、寺は楽しい場所だと感じるようになりました。先人たちが寺を大切に守り、広げ、支えてくださったからこそ、私たちもまた寺を大切な場と感じ、守り続けたいと思うのです。

100周年にお寺に来る世代のことを私たちはそれほど深く考えていないかもしれません。しかし、念仏のみ教え

を聞くこと、盆踊り、照り焼きチキンセール、そのほかの寺の活動を私たち自身が楽しんでいる限り、それらは自然に次の世代へ受け継がれ、その方々もまたお寺に来ることを楽しみ、お寺を支えてくださることでしょう。そうした意味で、私たちは教えを次へ伝えるお手伝いができます。これは先人からいただいた大切な導きです。どうぞこれからもお寺に来ることを楽しんでいただきたいと思います。

結びに、『教行信証』から一節をご紹介します。親鸞聖人は、み教えを伝えたいとの願いをもって、その結びの部分で、中国浄土教の祖・道綽禅師(6~7世紀)の言葉を引用されています。『安樂集』にはこうあります。

「前に生まれん者は後を導き、後に生まれん者は前を訪(とぶら)え。無辺の生死海を尽くさんがためなり。」

と、念仏のみ教えが伝わっていくには、過去に学び、未来につなぐことが大切であると説かれ、数限りない迷いの人々が残らず救われる道をお示しくださっています。

南無阿弥陀仏

Monthly Memorial MAY 2026

Shotsuki Service May 3, 2026 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Observant, Deceased

Akahori, Julie <i>Aunt, Akahori, Betty</i>	Komai, JoAnn <i>Mother, Yamada, Alice</i>	Nishisaka, Merrie, Nishisaka Scott <i>Grandfather,</i> Nishisaka, Yoshio	Sugano, Michiko <i>Husband, Sugano, Leo</i>
Akahori, Julie <i>Aunt, Akahori, Helen</i>	Koyanagi, Katherine <i>Mother,</i> Koyanagi, Miyoko	Nishikawa, Yoko <i>Grandmother,</i> Uyemura, Minoe	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Grandmother,</i> Takashima, Tsume
Akahori, Julie <i>Uncle, Uyetake, Kenji</i>	Kuwata, Tom <i>Father, Kuwata, Kijiro</i>	Nishikawa, Yoko <i>Mother,</i> Uyemura, Chizuko	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Father,</i> Takashima, Katsumi
Arita Family <i>Mother, Arita, Yoshi</i>	Kuwata, Tom <i>Uncle, Kuwata, Kiemon</i>	Nishiyama, Dexter <i>Wife,</i> Matayoshi, Connie	Takemoto, Ron <i>Mother, Takemoto, Kazumi</i>
Burtis, Chris <i>Wife, Nishida, Gwen</i>	Kuwata, Tom <i>Aunt, Ogura, Toyoko</i>	Ohata, Ron <i>Brother,</i> Ohata, Kevin	Terrell, Jackie <i>Mother-in-law,</i> Fukumoto, Tomiko
Domoto Family <i>Mother, Domoto, Lily</i>	Miyagishima, Lily <i>Husband,</i> Miyagishima, Yoshimi	Okazaki, James <i>Mother, Kuroi, Osae</i>	Toji, Suzanne <i>Father-in-law,</i> Toji, Mamoru
Ebata, Donna <i>Husband, Ebata, Duane</i>	Murakami, Eugene <i>Father-in-law,</i> Tamura, Jimmy	Okuda, Peggy <i>Mother,</i> Imoto, Saeko	Toyama, John <i>Father, Toyama, Seikichi</i>
Hashimoto Family <i>Sister,</i> Hashimoto, Janice Miyo	Murakami, Eugene <i>Grandmother,</i> Inouye, Hisako	Rogers, Aki <i>Great Grandmother,</i> Tokaji, Masano	Tsuji, Hisako <i>Husband, Tsuji, Shoichi</i>
Higa, Stephanie <i>Father, Takamoto Robert</i>	Matsumura, Henry <i>Grandmother,</i> Yamaguchi, Fujiko	Rogers, Aki <i>Step Great Grandfather,</i> Tokaji, Kaname	Umemoto, Marty & Kathie <i>Grandson, Ito, Jayden</i>
Hayamizu, Sumiko <i>Father,</i> Nakashima, Hashigoro	Nakano Family <i>Father, Frank Nakano</i>	Saiki, Yumi <i>Mother, Yoshida, Toshiko</i>	Ushirogata, Yukie <i>Mother, Matsushita, Tsune</i>
Hiramoto, John <i>Father, Hiramoto, George</i>	Nakagawa, Fred <i>Father, Nakagawa,</i> Motoharu	Saneto Family <i>Mother, Saneto, Motoko</i>	Umemoto, Marty <i>Mother, Umemoto, Mitsuko</i>
Hori, Robert <i>Father, Hori, Takashi</i>	Nakawatase Family <i>Mother,</i> Nakawatase, Kazuko	Sato Family <i>Grandfather,</i> Kishaba, Uichi	Uyemura, Koichi <i>Grandmother,</i> Uyemura, Minoe
Iriye, Kenny <i>Mother, Iriye, Midori</i>	Nishida, Lori <i>Grandfather,</i> Nishisaka, Yoshio	Segawa, James <i>Wife, Segawa, Yuriko</i>	Yamashita, Betty <i>Father, Takahashi, Tokuso</i>
Kanda, Lynn <i>Mother, Kanda, Susan</i>	Nishida, Russell <i>Sister, Nishida, Gwen</i>	Shigaki Family <i>Father, Shigaki, Al</i>	Yoshida, Miyeko <i>Father, Suzuki, Urao</i>
Gleeson, David <i>Mother-in-law,</i> Kanda, Susan			
Gleeson, Paiton, Emery, Montgomery <i>Grandmother,</i> Kanda, Susan			

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 2026

Gotan-e and Hatsumairi Infant Presentation Ceremony Sunday, May 3, at 10:00am

**Senshin Bukkyo
Gakuin (SBG)
Study Classes
Chanting,
Ritual and
Buddhist
Etiquette in
Jodo Shinshu
Learning
from Senshin
Service Book
Wednesdays,
May 6, 13 & 20
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*.

We will observe *Gotan-e*, the celebration of Shinran Shonin's birth, on Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 AM. *Gotan-e* commemorates the birth of Shinran Shonin, who was born on May 21, 1173. "*Gotan*" means "birth," and "e" means "gathering." We will also hold the May *Shotsuki Hoyo* in conjunction with this service.

In addition, we will hold *Hatsumairi* (the Infant Presentation Ceremony) during the *Gotan-e* service. If you would like your children or grandchildren to participate, please contact the temple by phone or email. We also welcome children and babies who were unable to participate in *Hatsumairi* last year or in previous years.

To ensure that we have enough Senshin *Hatsumairi* teddy bears for all participants, we kindly ask that you contact the temple in advance if you plan to participate.

All Past Members Memorial Service and Entertainment Sunday, May 24

We will hold a memorial service to express our gratitude and respect for all Senseis and members who have passed away. Thanks to their efforts and support, we are able to enjoy a stable and harmonious sangha today. This service is held in commemoration of our 75th anniversary.

Following the service, we will have entertainment by Kinnara Taiko, as well as Gagaku and Bugaku, which have been part of Senshin for nearly 60 years since 1969. Members of the Jr. YBA will also join in the *Gagaku* music and *Bugaku* dance, continuing this long-standing tradition. We will also enjoy a performance by ABAsonics, an oldies cover band from Nishi Betsuin.

We will also introduce one of our 75th anniversary commemorative gifts, "Senshin Beer," and serve lunch for all attendees.

Please join us as we remember and thank our family members and friends, and enjoy an afternoon of music, dance, and food.



**SENSHIN
BUDDHIST TEMPLE**
1951 **75** 2026

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.

MARCH DONATIONS

Fumiko Mochizuki
Dana

Singing with Friends/
Chris Aihara
Orei

Anonymous
Dana

Douglas Kato & Family
Nokotsudo

Peggy Okuda
Dana

Diane Kawaguchi
Nokotsudo for Nat &
Doris Kawaguchi &
Shirley Kodani

Jana Yokoyama
Forrest & Jana's Wedding

Keith Sawada
1st Cycle memorial for
Gayle Wada

CAF / Disney
Donation

Dennis & Celia Huey
Dana

Bob Nakawatase
Nokotsudo

Lynn Kanda &
David Gleeson
In memory of
Mary Kathleen Gleeson
Glen & Joyce Isomoto
Wednesday Study Class

Shelly Okamura
Nokotsudo

Richard & Yoko Miyagawa
Nokotsudo – Hana Unno

Edmond & Susan Young
In memory of
Doris Shigaki

Janice Shigaki
In memory of
Doris Shigaki

Chris Aihara
Hoji – Iwanaga

Dale Shirasago
Dana

Mayumi Kodani
Dana

MARCH SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory of

Julie Akahori
Harry Kawaye

Christine & Christopher
Burtis
Kik Nishida

Erica Yee Calzadias
Peter Lugo

May Sugano Egner
Father
Leo Takuya Sugano,
Grandmother
Tsugi Sugano

Miki Fujimoto
Crystine Yuki Fujimoto

Lisa M. Hashimoto-Elardo
Tatsuyo Nishimura

Glen & Joyce Isomoto
Kiyoko Isomoto

Douglas Kato
Jessie Kato

Richard & Denise Kodani
Mother Motome Kodani

Chikako Kojima
George Kojima, Fred
Kojima, Teruji Takaki

Lisa Ann Maeda
Toshihiro Domoto

Doug Matsuda
Manabu Ronnie Matsuda

Debra Nishida &
Neil Hurley
Kikuko Nishida

Russell & Lori Nishida
Kikuko Nishida

Dexter Nishiyama
Yone Matayoshi

Ronald & Fujie Ohata
Uncle Ichiro Uyeno

Ellen Shimohara
Father Michio Shinoda

Mark & Reiko Soday
Kamezo Niimi

Michiko Sugano
Takuya Sugano &
Tsugi Sugano

Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Grandmother Shige
Yasuda

Kathie & Marty Umemoto
Brother Ronnie Matsuda

Yukie Ushirogata
Ichitaro Matsushita

MARCH FLOWER DONATION

Julie Akahori

Kathie & Marty Umemoto

Glen & Joyce Isomoto

Mark & Reiko Soday

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa

Doug Matsuda

Chikako Kojima

Nishida Family

Russell & Lori Nishida

Ellen Shimohara

Sue Omori

Richard & Denise Kodani

MARCH OHIGAN DONATION

Anonymous

Anonymous

Julie Akahori

Don Akamine

Jane Asahi

Stan & Deb Fukawa

James & Karen Harada

Sumiko Hayamizu

Stephanie Higa

Paul Hiramoto

Duane Hirayama

Jane & Keith Hirayama

Catherine Hisamune

Patti Honkawa

Edna Horiuchi

Denise Ishitani

Janis Ishitani

Cathy Iyemura

Karen Kimura Joo

Emi Kamikawa

Kristine & Glenn
Kawaguchi

Ruby Kiyohara

Richard & Denise Kodani

Chikako Kojima

Richard Kok

June Kondo

Tammy & Dale Matsubara

Kazuo & Ikuko
Matsubayashi

Douglas Matsuda

Jean Minami

Lillie Miyagishima

Marilyn & Dennis
Miyamoto

Eugene & Elaine Murakami

Richard & Helen
Nakawatase

Russell & Lori Nishida

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa

Merrie Nishisaka

Sachie Oda

Craig & Cindy Ogawa

Ronald & Fujie Ohata

Shelly Okamura

Michael & Carol Okuda

Marilyn Shimabukuro &
Gilbert Leong

Ellen Shimohara

Mark & Reiko Soday

Michiko Sugano

Kiyoe Suzuki

Wilbur & Iris Takashima

Suzanne Toji

Mika Toyoura
 Yoko Uneda
 Yukie Ushirogata
 Nancy Usui
 Bernice Wakinaka
 Vickie Wakinaka
 Lisa Warshal
 Betty Yamashita
 Qris Yamashita &
 Chris Komai
 Michael Yanagita
 Greg Yee
 Arlene Yokoyama
 Kiyoko Yoneda
 Amy Yukawa

**ANITYA/75TH ANNIVERSARY
 DONATIONS
 THROUGH APRIL 2, 2026**

Susan Asamura
 Kenny & Chizuko Endo
 Debra & Stan Fukawa
 James & Karen Harada
 Kinnara Inc.
 Denise & Derek Kodani
 Masao Kodani
 Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
*In memory of Tamio &
 Chizuko Uyemura*
 Saneto & Kawaguchi
 Families
 Wilbur & Iris Takashima
 Marty & Kathie Umemoto
 Alice Yokota &
 Rodney Cooley

IN CELEBRATION OF KODOMO-NO-HI (CHILDREN'S DAY)

SUNDAY
 MAY 3, 2026

Immediately After
 Service

Senshin Buddhist
 Temple Social Hall



Join us for some
 family fun

**FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
 REFRESHMENTS**

Let us know you're coming...

Chris Aihara, aihara.chris@gmail.com

Jana Yokoyama, scoutthesprout@gmail.com

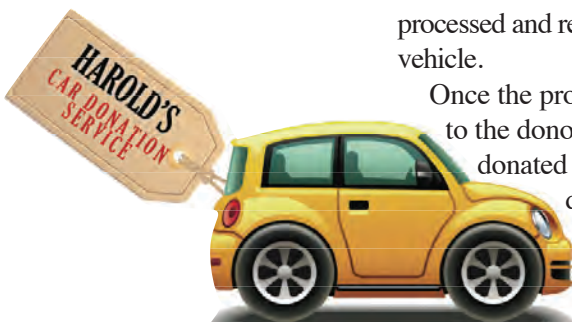
Vehicle Donation

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) 994-1627 or Marilyn Shimabukuro (818) 681-3837.



Updates

& ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the Board

It has been a very nice spring so far, with the *sakura* coming and going and a beautiful *Hanamatsuri* service to celebrate together. It's always so special to see the elephant on display and to welcome so many people gathering to honor the birth of the Buddha. And of course, many of us look forward to the *chirashi* served after service — a simple but meaningful way to share in community.

Hanamatsuri reminds us not only of the Buddha's birth, but also of the spirit of gratitude and joy that we carry into our daily lives. Seeing our Sangha come together in this way is always a heartfelt reminder of how important these shared moments are.

As we move further into the year, we also look ahead to a very special upcoming celebration — our **75th Anniversary and Keiro Kai**. This will be a meaningful opportunity to honor our Temple's history, express appreciation to our senior members, and celebrate the many generations that have helped shape our Sangha into what it is today.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and participate in our Temple activities. Your presence and dedication help keep our community strong and vibrant.

In Gassho,
STAN FUKAWA



ABA

March was ABA's Toban month, so many thanks to Cathy Iyemura for being the lead for *Ohigan Otoki*, Chikako Kojima for picking up all the tofu, John Hiramoto for the tasty shumai, and all our members that helped out. We also had a get together luncheon at King's Hawaiian Bakery/Restaurant on March 12th, where we all had a great time. Special thanks to Amy Yukawa for donating red envelopes to pass out to residents at BWA's Kei Ai Bingo (March 29th), and thanks to Cathy, John, Greg and James for helping out BWA (we had an all-time high of 39 residents participating and truly enjoying the winning!).

For April, more thanks to Joyce and Glen Isomoto for being the leads for our Char Siu Bao fundraiser, John and Paul Hiramoto for picking up the baos, plus all ABA members and non-members who came out to help package and distribute the baos. And last but not never least, thanks to Deb Hiramoto (chicken teriyaki lunch lead), Marilyn Miyamoto (chicken teriyaki tsukemono lead), and all ABA members that came out to help. A special thank you to Suzanne Toji for donating Chinese Chicken Salad for the chicken teriyaki lunch hosted by ABA. Totally busy but having fun, too!!





Jr Y B A

This month we are continuing to prepare for Senshin’s 75th Anniversary. Jr. YBA will be performing *Gagaku* music and *Bugaku* dance. We will also be participating in the 75th Anniversary event reception at USC. We are continuing to work with San Fernando Valley’s Jr. YBA to plan the Southern District Jr. YBA conference.

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

B W A

April was a very busy month for the temple and the BWA, and even more is on the plate for May! Even though the cherry blossoms were already gone, we had a nice *Hanamatsuri* service with beautiful flowers on the *Hanamido*, and a delicious *otoki* of *chirashi*. Thank you to all that cooked rice and all that came out on Saturday and Sunday to help with the preparations and the plating of 200 servings of *chirashi*. Deliveries were also made to some of our homebound members for them to enjoy. Thank you to Kathie and Marty U. for providing the cake.

A lot of the Sangha and friends came out for another successful chicken teriyaki sale. This event is still a great gathering for our Senshin community. Many thanks to the BWA leads for areas that contribute to the overall success of this storied temple event (preparing the green beans; bake sale; craft sale; and white elephant sale).

The month of May presents us with Dharma School’s *Kodomo no Hi* event that is always filled with smiles. The BWA will make *omusubi* for the kids and those in attendance. This month is also packed with preparations and excitement for Senshin’s 75th anniversary events. Get ready for some fun entertainment by the BWA!

Thank you for the following special donations: Betty Yamashita, Debbie Hiramoto, Qris Yamashita.



Wasabi Kai

This past month we completed our Japanese dinnerware and plating class. Over the years it has been very popular. Some have taken it as many as three times! I think what interests people is that we are consciously — or sub-consciously — “blown away” by the presentation of food on plates which are picked to complement what is served. Rev. Mas points out that Japan has always embraced this aesthetic — the food and plates change with the seasons. The visual and then the sensory combine to create a unique dining experience.

This class consists of five sessions. Three of which teach varying techniques and skills to

create simple but unique plates, bowls and side dishes. The fourth covers glazing which when fired produces the final result. The final session is the opening of the kiln, unloading, and seeing each piece in its final form. It’s like opening presents at Christmas...but we are Buddhists... you get the picture. We then choose pieces to plate with a “potluck” provided by the students. This is arguably harder to do than at a restaurant where they have a pre-fixed menu. The goal here is to be mindful of the color, texture, and form of the plates in relation to the food...a feast for the eyes!

Let’s be real... this class is not about becoming experts in plating or becoming master potters. It is about appreciation. To be mindful of how to present food and its relation to the

plates and bowls on which it is served. In our daily lives we can do only so much... but with a little effort, we can make each meal a taste for the eye as well as the tongue. We all have treasured pottery that was gifted or handed down through generations or bought on a trip. We tend not to use them because they are “too nice.” I encourage you to use and enjoy them as that is what they were made for.

I would like to thank the students who came each week eager to explore and challenge themselves. To the WasabiKai members who assisted and encouraged the students. To Rev. Mas for providing valuable insights into our culture and aesthetics.

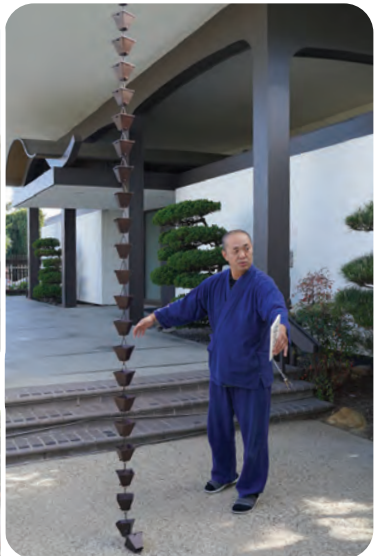
Look for upcoming classes this summer. Questions: Bob Miyamoto 323-791-2719.



HANAMATSURI



SPRING OSOJI



Tutti-Frutti, Punch & Judy, 636 Gonna...

Over many years, spanning the 1950's to the 1980's, Senshin had a large and vibrant Boy Scout Troop. The troop consisted of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorer Scouts. In the spring of 1953, a charter was granted and Senshin Boy Scout Troop 636 was official. The troop started with six boys and Mrs. Ayako Horike as the first den mother and George Okada as the first scoutmaster. The troop quickly grew and all of the parents became involved. Scoutmasters George Okada, Sat Okamoto, Ben Ozeki, George Matsui, and Hiro Yamamisaka provided the boys with valuable training in scouting skills, character building, and the enthusiasm to advance in the ranks.

During the first ten years, the troop had 100% sustainable membership, and many awards and recognitions. The first den of 6 cubs and 6 scouts increased to six dens plus a Webelos (55 cubs), 8 patrols (60 scouts), and 35 Explorers!

During the mid-60's, the unit was 10 years old and the troop saw its largest registration with over 150 boys. The troop celebrated its 10th anniversary with a banquet and the presentation of 7 Eagle Scouts. In 1966, the troop took over the storeroom behind the Social Hall and renovated it to be the Scout Room.

The campouts were great experiences and created many memories. There were on average 7 campouts each year at local parks (Ladera, McArthur, beaches) and out of the area (Sierras, Catalina, Lake Arrowhead, San Clemente, etc.) In 1970 the first Oriental Camporee was held under a joint sponsorship of troops that consisted of mostly Asian scouts in the LA Area Council.

This Camporee was seen as very competitive and Troop 636 always did well at competitions.

Some memories shared by former troop members:

From Johnny Mori ('57-'67)

A special memory for me would be the feeling of unity of everyone in the troop, especially when we went to an event with other troops from different communities for a citywide competition. We came together to make sure we did not get harassed or messed with. Our adult leaders did not directly warn us of possible racism directed towards us, but they made sure if a situation arose, they would defuse it before it grew out of hand. Only once, at a Summer Camp on Catalina Island, another troop directed racist name calling towards our troop. Well, some scouts went on a night time mission and disrupted the other troop's campsite. We eventually got into a fight with the other troop.

Senshin Troop 636 consisted of boys going to Mt. Vernon, Audobon, and Foshay Jr. High Schools. Initially, this created some competitiveness because of territorial feelings. But being in scouts together also created a special connection. So when we saw each other outside of the troop, like at the Crenshaw Square and Nisei Week Carnivals, we all knew each other and had that bond.

From Keith Sawada ('74-'84)

From Morse code, semaphore, wigwag to trail signs, we learned so much in the Boy Scouts. We also gained knowledge on using a map and compass, lashing a tripod, and tying an ankle brace. These skills would get put to the test in an annual invitational field day/camporee, a weekend competition

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.

involving 11 Japanese American troops.

During 1980 to 1981, I was in my third and fourth year of Scouting. I remember there were timed events, such as starting a fire with flint and steel, tying 10 knots, or building a field stretcher using a blanket and two poles to carry a teammate across the finish line. There was a campsite inspection by all of the senior patrol leaders of every troop. The leaders would come onto our campsite as the troop stood in formation. They could inspect our uniform, ask for the recitation of the Scout Law, or check if tents were squared away inside out, etc. At the end of the inspection, we had to give a "battle cry" that represented us. One year, we yelled "TUTTI-FRUTTI PUNCH AND JUDY; SIX THIRTY-SIX GONNA KICK YOUR BOOTY!" The following year, we yelled "SENSHIN NIHONJIN, BADDEST DUDES YOU'VE EVER SEEN!" And people wonder why Senshin has had such a notorious rep throughout the years, from Boy Scouts to YBA.

Note: For more on the history of Boy Scout Troop 636, there is an extensive write-up on the Senshin Website.

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

SENSHIN-JI 2026 MAY 2569

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SENSHIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MAY 24/31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45a Japanese Howa 10a Monthly Memorial Service (<i>Shotsuki Hōyō</i>); <i>Gotanyē</i> Service (Shinran Shonin's Birthday); <i>Hatsumairi</i> (Infant Presentation) Following service Donuts, Dharma School's <i>Kodomo-no-Hi</i> Event	7p BWA Reiki (Zoom only)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Chanting, Ritual, and Buddhist Etiquette (zoom)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30a Temple Board Meeting 10a Family Service Following service Meetings: Jr. YBA, Sangha teens; Bachi Babies – Toddler Taiko	7:30p ABA Meeting (zoom)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p SBG: Chanting, Ritual, and Buddhist Etiquette (zoom)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10a Family Service – Rev. Mas Kodani Following service Youth Kinnara Taiko		10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p SBG: Chanting, Ritual, and Buddhist Etiquette (zoom)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10a Past Member's Memorial Service Following service Kinnara Bugaku, Gagaku, Taiko performances, and entertainment	8a-12p Memorial Day Nokotsudo Visitation 11:30a Services at Rosedale Cemetery	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		

31 75th Anniversary

10a 75th Anniversary Service
Following service 75th Anniversary Luncheon & Keiro Kai – USC Hotel

MAY SERVICE TOBAN: JR. YBA

Monthly Toban group responsible for:

- **Weekly** Chair Sunday Service
- **May 3** Provide donuts/beverages following monthly memorial service
- **May 10** Provide/serve snacks and beverage for Temple Board Meeting

MAY ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

May 2 Fujie Ohata–*Gotanyē*

May 9 Debra Nishida/Lori Nishida

May 16 Arlene Yokoyama

MAY Hondo Toban

Kinnara Taiko

May 23 Marilyn Shimabukuro/Gilbert Leong–Past Members Memorial

May 30 Joyce/Glen Isomoto–75th Anniversary

June 6 Mika Toyoura/Karen Kimura Joo

JUNE Upcoming Events

June 13 SD Conference

June 15 Saishin Dojo Starts

June 21 Jr. YBA Parent's Day Breakfast

June 27 *Hatsubon* Service and *Obon*

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



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



SENSHIN
 BUDDHIST TEMPLE
 1 9 5 1 **75** 2 0 2 6

Please join us on this special day to celebrate 75 years as an independent temple, honor our esteemed 80 years and older members, and express our gratitude to all who pioneered Senshin Buddhist Temple. We hope you and your friends and family will be a part of this very special milestone celebration!

Date: Sunday, May 31, 2026,
Locations: Senshin Buddhist Temple and the USC Hotel

Schedule:

9:00a: Refreshments followed by Group Portrait, Chigo Parade, Service and Keiro Kai at Senshin Buddhist Temple

1:30p: Luncheon:

USC Hotel 3540 S. Figueroa St, LA, CA 90007

Registration Fee

Adults: \$50

Children (under 12): \$25

Keiro kai Honorees (80 years and older at time of event): FREE

Keiro kai Honoree group photo FREE to Honorees

Optional 8x10 entire Sangha Group Portrait by Toyo Miyatake \$20 each

Contact name and cell or email

.....

75th Anniversary Celebration and Keiro kai

Keiro Kai Honoree(s)

Name	Sangha Portrait	Choice of one(1):		
		Chicken	Beef	Veg
.....				
.....				
.....				

Regular registration (non-Keiro Kai honoree)

Name	Adult (A) or Child (C)	Sangha Portrait	Choice of one(1):		
			Chicken	Beef	Veg
.....					
.....					
.....					
.....					
.....					

Total Adults X \$50 =

Total Children X \$25 =
 (children's menu: chicken fingers meal)

Total Sangha Portraits X \$20 =

Total Amount Included:

Request seating with other attendees and we will do our best to accommodate everyone's requests. 10 seats per table.

Please seat me/us at the same table or near to:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Registration Information

Mail-In Registration:

Payment by check payable to **Senshin Buddhist Temple** and write **75th Anniversary** in memo. Please mail check and completed registration form to Senshin Buddhist Temple 1311 W 37th St LA, 90007

Payment by Zelle (Ron Ohata): ☎ 703-887-9570

Please include in the Zelle memo: **75th Anniversary** and Your Name and remember to mail in your completed registration form to:

Senshin Buddhist Temple 1311 W 37th St LA, 90007

RSVP Deadline: May 10, 2026 or when capacity of 280 people is met.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Iris Takashima at Senshin75th@aol.com