

AMIDA'S PRIMAL VOW

AND

Dancing Queen



Thanks to your support, we were able to hold a successful 75th Anniversary Service, Reception, and Celebration. Senshin members and guests shared a memorable time together, paying respect to our predecessors and expressing gratitude to one another for sustaining our temple over the past 75 years.



One of the highlights of the anniversary reception on May 31 was the performances by the BWA, ABA, and Jr. YBA. Through songs and



dance, they helped create a joyful and festive atmosphere.

The Jr. YBA chose to perform the classic ABBA song *Dancing Queen*. (This ABBA is not our ABA, the Adult Buddhist Association!) They even adapted some of the lyrics to reflect their experiences and activities in Jr. YBA and their love for Senshin.

Their energetic singing and dancing brought smiles to everyone in attendance and made it a truly memorable performance.

Watching their performance, I felt grateful and reassured that the future of Senshin is in good hands.

Dancing Queen was released in

1976 and quickly became a worldwide hit. Fifty years later, it remains one of the most beloved pop songs ever recorded. The lyrics celebrate youth, joy, and moments of happiness in life. Although it was not written for any particular person, many listeners feel as though the song is speaking directly to them. There is an interesting story behind this song. In June 1976, ABBA gave the first public performance of *Dancing Queen* at a gala held the evening before the wedding of Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. Silvia was not born into royalty and had faced public scrutiny before the marriage. It is said that the song's uplifting message helped her relax and enjoy the occasion. Whether or not that story is completely true, the song certainly carries a message of encouragement: "You can shine. You can enjoy life." Perhaps that is one reason why *Dancing Queen* has remained popular for fifty years.



we feel tired, uncertain, or discouraged. In every situation, Amida Buddha's compassion reaches us just as we are.

"Saved by the inconceivable working of

Amida's Vow, I shall realize birth in the Pure Land: the moment you entrust yourself thus to the Vow, so that the mind set upon saying the nembutsu arises within you, you are immediately brought to share in the benefit of being grasped by Amida, never to be abandoned."

(TANNISHO CHAPTER 1)

The Primal Vow tells us that we are not abandoned and that our lives are embraced without condition. It does not depend on our success, our abilities, or our mood on any particular day. Whether we feel like a "dancing queen" or not, we are always embraced by boundless compassion. The Nembutsu teaching reminds us that we can shine because we are already illuminated by Amida's light. Hearing the Nembutsu teaching, let us live each day with gratitude and appreciation.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU.

This reminds me of the spirit of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow (*Hong-*

[CHORUS]

Ooh-ooh, we can dance, Junior Y,
Having the time of our life
Ooh, with that bell, *kansho* rings
Digging the Senshin-ji

[VERSE 1]

Obon night and the lights are low
Looking out for a place to go
Mmm, where there might be music
But shaved ice is the key
You come for Li Hing Mui

[VERSE 2]

We serve the chicken and mochi right
May be young but we're Junior Y~
Helping out the Sangha,
so everything is fine
With the Bugaku dance
We wash those windows fast

[PRE-CHORUS]

We are the Senshin-ji's
Young and sweet, roughly seventeen
Senshin-ji
Feel the beat, and for birthdays sing,
oh, yeah

[CHORUS]

Ooh-ooh, we can dance, Junior Y,
Having the time of our life
Ooh, with that bell, *kansho* rings
Digging the Senshin-ji

本願と「ダンシング・クイーン」

皆さまのご支援のおかげで、洗心寺75周年記念法要、祝賀会、そして記念イベントを無事に終えることができました。洗心寺を建ててくださった先人や、75年にわたってお寺を支えてくださった方々への感謝の気持ちを分かち合うことができた、思い出深いひとときとなりました。

5月31日にUSCホテルで行われた祝賀会では、BWA、ABA、そしてジュ

ニアYBAによるパフォーマンスが大きな見どころの一つでした。歌や踊りを通して、会場は明るく楽しい雰囲気にな

り、デン国王カール16世グスタフとシルヴィア王妃の結婚式前夜に開かれた祝賀会で、「ダンシング・クイーン」を初め

あづけしめたまふなり」とあります。

本願は、私たちが決して見捨てられ



まれました。

ジュニアYBAは、ABBAの名曲「Dancing Queen (ダンシング・クイーン)」を披露しました。(こちらのABBAは、洗心寺のABAではありません!) 歌詞の一部をジュニアYBAでの活動や洗心寺への思いに合わせてアレンジし、元気いっぱい歌い踊る姿は、会場の皆さまにたくさんの笑顔を届けてくれました。

その姿を見ながら、私は洗心寺が次の世代へと確かに受け継がれていくことを感じ、感謝と安心の気持ちを抱きました。

「ダンシング・クイーン」は1976年に発表され、瞬間に世界的なヒット曲となりました。50年経った今でも、世界中で愛され続けているポップソングの名曲です。その歌詞には、若さや喜び、そして人生の幸せなひとときが描かれています。特定の誰かのために書かれた歌ではありませんが、多くの人びとがまるで自分自身に語りかけられているように感じます。

この曲には興味深いエピソードがあります。1976年6月、ABBAはスウェ

で公の場で披露しました。

シルヴィア王妃は王族の出身ではなく、結婚前には世間からの注目や批判にもさらされていたといわれています。この曲の前向きなメッセージが、結婚式を前にした彼女の緊張を和らげたとも伝えられています。

その話がどこまで本当かは分かりませんが、この曲に込められていることは確かでしょう。そして、それこそが「ダンシング・クイーン」が50年もの間、多くの人々に愛され続けている理由の一つなのかもしれません。

私は、この曲のメッセージから、阿彌陀さまの本願を思い起こしました。

阿彌陀さまの本願は、私たちの表面の感情や日々の移り変わる状況を超えて、心のもっとも深いところにまで届いています。

『歎異抄』第一章には、

「弥陀の誓願不思議にたすけられまらせて、往生をばとぐるなりと信じて、念仏申さんとおもひたつこころのおこるとき、すなはち摂取不捨の利益に

ることのない存在であることを教えてくださいます。それは私たちの成功や能力、その日の気分によって左右されるものではありません。私たちは『ダンシング・クイーン』の歌詞のように元気で前向きな時もあれば、疲れたり、不安になったり、落ち込んだりすることもあります。しかし、そのような私たちをそのままに、阿彌陀さまの慈悲はいつも届いているのです。

念仏のみ教えは、私たちが阿彌陀さまの光にすでに照らされているからこそ、輝くことができるのだと教えてくれます。

このお念仏のみ教えを聞かせていただきながら、感謝の心をもって日々を歩ませていただきます。

南無阿彌陀仏

Monthly Memorial JULY 2026

Shotsuki Service July 5 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Akahori, Julie <i>Uncle Uyetake, Keiso</i>	Kok, Richard <i>Mother Yoke, Toh Siew</i>	Segawa Family <i>Segawa/Kawamoto Families</i>
Fujimoto, Noriko <i>Husband Fujimoto, Hisashi</i>	Kunitake, Kimiyo <i>Mother-in-law Kunitake, Shizue</i>	Shigaki Family <i>Mother Shigaki, Doris</i>
Hashimoto Family <i>Uncle Hashimoto, Harry</i>	Kunitake, Kimiyo <i>Mother Yamada, Eiko</i>	Shirasago, Paula <i>Mother Shimada, Mae Satsuki</i>
Hashimoto Family <i>Grandfather Nishimura, Kanichi</i>	Maeshiro Family <i>Fujimoto, Susan</i>	Sugano, Michiko <i>Mother Yoshimoto, Sayo</i>
Hiramoto, John <i>Grandmother Kanegawa, Mitsuru</i>	Matsubayashi, Kazuo <i>Mother Matsubayashi, Atsuko</i>	Takashima, Iris <i>Uncle Yasuda, Minoru</i>
Hosokawa, Gloria <i>Grandmother Maruichi, Hatsu</i>	Meigneux, Kate & Meigneux, Emma & Teia <i>Husband/Father Meigneux, Patrice</i>	Takemoto, Jon <i>Father Takemoto, Ben</i>
Huey, Celia <i>Grandmother Kanegawa, Mitsuru</i>	Miyata, Satoshi <i>Wife Miyata, Sue</i>	Takeyama, Yo <i>Husband Takeyama, Ray</i>
Imamura Family <i>Grandmother Yoshimura, Hisa</i>	Mori, Wendy <i>Mother Sahara, Chiyo</i>	Terrell, Jackie <i>Mother Howard, Marty</i>
Ito, Maryann <i>Father Ito, Tokuo</i>	Murakami, Eugene <i>Father Murakami, Kazuo</i>	Toyama, Beverly <i>Aunt Murata, Hatsuye</i>
Kitano, Gerald <i>Father Kitano, Melvin</i>	Nagano, Lance <i>Wife Nagano, Julia</i>	Toyama, Beverly <i>Uncle Murata, Kenji</i>
Kitano, Jane <i>Mother Otamura, Sumiko</i>	Oda, Cindy <i>Uncle Tomita, Akira</i>	Toyama, Tory <i>Spouse Guerrero, Chase</i>
Kojima, Chikako <i>Daughter Kojima, Noreen</i>	Okazaki, James <i>Uncle Okazaki, Tasuku</i>	Wakinaka, Bernice <i>Sister-in-law Nagaoka, Meta</i>
	Saneto Family <i>Grandmother Saneto, Koima</i>	Yamashita, Betty <i>Grandmother Ito, Toku</i>
	Sato Family <i>Grandmother Sato, Kogimi</i>	Yokoyama, Arlene <i>Sister Yamada, Ellen</i>
		Yokoyama, Arlene <i>Mother Yamada, Thelma</i>
		Yoshimura, Evelyn <i>Father Yoshimura, Dan</i>
		Yoshimura, Brett & Susan <i>Grandfather Yoshimura, Dan</i>
		Yoshimura, Evelyn <i>Stepmother Yoshimura, Kay</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.

Monthly Memorial AUGUST 2026

Shotsuki Service July 5 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Akahori, Julie <i>Grandfather Uyetake, Senichi</i>	Kodama, Nancy <i>Husband Kodama, Malcolm</i>	Nakawatase, Richard <i>Grandfather Nakawatase, Suyekichi</i>
Domoto Family <i>Domoto, Eiichi</i>	Kojima, Chikako <i>Mother-in-law Kojima, Natalia</i>	Nakawatase, Richard <i>Aunt Inahara, Toshiko Lily</i>
Ebata, Donna <i>Mother-in-law Ebata, Emiko</i>	Kojima, Chikako <i>Aunt Kojima, Bonnie</i>	Nakawatase, Terry <i>Husband Nakawatase, Roy</i>
Higa, Dorothy <i>Father Kuwaki, Masao</i>	Kojima, Chikako <i>Mother Uneda, Yoko</i>	Okita Family <i>Father Okita, Kiyoshi</i>
Ishizuka, Karen <i>Brother Ishizuka, Tadao Kirk</i>	Kuwata, Tom <i>Grandmother Kuwata, Kogiku</i>	Ono, David <i>Father Ono, Akira</i>
Isomoto, Glen <i>Grandmother Isomoto, Sakuyo</i>	Marubayashi, Roy <i>Mother Marubayashi, Setsuko</i>	Sakakura, Michiko <i>Father Sakakura, Kotaro</i>
Isomoto, Glen <i>Grandfather Isomoto, Ikusuke</i>	Matsumura, Henry <i>Grandfather Matsumura, Kunishiro</i>	Shirasago, Paula <i>Father Shimada, Saburo</i>
Kanda, Lynn <i>Father Gleeson, David</i> <i>Father-in-law Gleeson, Paiton, Emery,</i> <i>Montgomery</i> <i>Grandfather Kanda, Mamoru</i>	Matsumura, Henry <i>Uncle Matsumura, Kuniyoshi</i>	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Uncle Taniguchi, Mitsuo</i>
Kiriyama, Iku <i>Husband Kiriyama, George</i>	Minami, Jean <i>Father Yokomi, Itsuto</i>	Tanaka, Lillian <i>Father Shiosaki, Rodney</i>
Kitano, Jane <i>Father Otamura, Masao</i>	Mori, Johnny <i>Grandmother Ishigaki, Tane</i>	Tanezaki, Barbara <i>Mother Kakita, Hisako</i>
	Murakami, Eugene <i>Grandfather Inouye, Kenso</i>	Toji, Suzanne <i>Husband Toji, Robert</i>
	Murakami, Eugene <i>Grandmother Inouye, Komina</i>	Toyama, John <i>Brother Toyama, George</i>
	Nakashima, Jean <i>Mother Shigeyasu, Emiko</i>	Wakinaka, Bernice <i>Sister Yamada, Chiyoye</i>
		Yamashita, Betty <i>Mother Takahashi, Nancy</i>

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Senshin 2026

Senshinji Kangi-e Obon Service Sunday, July 19, 2026

In Jodo Shinshu, *Obon* is known as *Kangi-e*, meaning "The Gathering of Joy." It is both a memorial service and a celebration in remembrance of our ancestors, family members, and loved ones who have passed away. It is an opportunity to reflect on our indebtedness to those who came before us, to express our gratitude for their lives, and to reaffirm the preciousness of all life.

We will hold our *Kangi-e (Obon) Service* on Sunday, July 19, 2026.

Schedule

9:45a Japanese Dharma Message (Howa)

10:00a Kangi-e (Obon) Service

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Kenjun Kawawata

Bishop of Higashi Honganji USA and Rinban of Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

Following the service, *Otoki* will be served by the BWA.

We welcome everyone to join us as we gather in gratitude and remembrance.

洗心寺 歓喜会(お盆法要)のご案内

浄土真宗ではお盆法要を歓喜会と呼びます。先亡の家族、友人を始め、有縁、無縁の方々に感謝しつつ、お浄土へ往生することがなぜ歓喜となるかの意義を聞思する法要です。皆様、ぜひお参りください。ご講師は東本願寺別院輪番の河和田賢淳師です。スケジュールは英語をご覧ください。

SENSHIN-JI
**KANGI-E
OBON SERVICE**
SUNDAY JUNE 27, 2026

9:45a Japanese Dharma Message

10a Kangi-e (Obon) Service

Guest Speaker Rev. Kenjun Kawawata

Following Service Otoki

SENSHIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE

1311 West 37th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90007
323.731.4617

WWW.SENSHINTEMPLE.ORG

2026 Southern District Buddhist Conference

The 2026 Southern District Buddhist Conference was held on June 13 at Senshin Buddhist Temple. Bishop Marvin Harada set up the day at the Opening Service encouraging us to listen to the Dharma 1) as if it's our

first time, 2) as if it's meant for us, and 3) as if it's our last time.

The two keynote speakers, Rev. Dr. Mark Unno (English) and Rev. Yukari Torii (Japanese), addressed the theme of the conference which was

"Where Boundless Compassion Meets the Foolish Being: Intention Without Attachment," by presenting meaningful and relevant messages to close to 200

people in attendance from 12 different temples throughout Southern California.

Our appreciation goes out to these guest ministers as well as Rev. Ryuta Furumoto for his guidance throughout the planning process and the other Southern District and retired ministers.

From the very beginning, it was emphasized that the conference was a temple-wide event. Senshin really took that to heart and registered 68 members who not only attended the conference, but offered help and support in every way. Kinnara Gagaku performed at the Opening Service and was joined by several Jr. YBA members. ABA helped with various responsibilities throughout the day. Wasabi-Kai presented a beautiful display in the library of some of the works which have been created by our Senshin artisans. BWA provided beautiful and delicious spreads for the morning, lunch and desserts. Jr. YBA also



made several of the great signs seen around the campus as well as shave ice during the lunch break.

A special shout out to the Jr's who were there all day from gagaku to shave ice to clean up. The Jr's are our future and seeing their commitment and desire to help and participate in this event is a great indication that Senshin is in good shape for the next generation.

Our gratitude goes out to the Conference Committee who worked for the past year on the event. They are Reverend Ryuta Furumoto, Marilyn Shimabukuro, Donna Ebata, Fujie Ohata, Stan Fukawa, Qris Yamashita, Harumi Kawaguchi, Chikako Kojima, Kathy Ikari, and Neil and JoAnn Komai.

We have a lot of different things happening and available at Senshin so it was very nice to have the opportunity to share them with all the other temples. There was a vision for the Conference and it was really amazing to see how everything came together throughout the day thanks to our Sangha being on the same page and supporting one another. The vibe was totally Senshin. It was a great day. Intentions met.





MAY DONATION

Dana & Ann Saneto
Nokotsudo
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In memory of
Natsuko Masushige
Debra Nishida &
Neil Hurley
Nokotsudo
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In memory of
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Kiyoko Susan Kanda
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Bennett Danny Isomoto
Joel Chang & Lauren Ohata
Hatsumairi for
Oliver Chang

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Special: donation received with no specific reason given
Orei: donation for use of temple facilities, equipment, etc.
Nokotsudo: donation by families who have family remains 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.



Merrie Nishisaka &
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In memory of
Nishisaka and Sanada Family
Marilyn Shimabukuro
In memory of
Shig & Fumie Shimabukuro and Al & Doris Shigaki
Beverly Toyama Dana
Munekata Family
In memory of
Tadajiro & Kasumi Munekata and Ryo & Yooko Munekata
Joy Oyama
In memory of
Segawa and Oyama Family Members
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Jerry Ogawa & Social Hall
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Madalyne Adam *Nokotsudo*
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Funeral service for
Helen Nakawatase
Donna Ebata *Nokotsudo*
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23rd and 33rd Memorial Service
Maya Chow and
Koga Family
In memory of Sharon Koga & 75th Anniversary
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In memory of Jerry Ogawa
Michael Tsutsui *Nokotsudo*
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Funeral service for
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Denise Takehara
Use of Social Hall
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Jerry Ogawa
Ron & Fujie Ohata
Hatsumairi for grandson
Oliver Chang
Yonsei Basketball Association
Use of facilities

Dennis & Celia Huey Dana
Grace Uyeshima
In memory of
Masuo Tanaka from the Tanaka family
Aya Shigenaga
Use of Social Hall for 1st birthday

PAST MEMBERS MEMORIAL

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Lori & Russell Nishida
Nishida Family
Sumi Hayamizu

MAY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory Of
Madelyn K. Adams
Kijiro Kuwata
Julie Akahori
Betty Akahori, Helen Akahori, Motoko Saneto, Uncle Kenji Uyetake
Donna Ebata
Husband Duane Ebata
May Sugano Egner
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Leo Masanobu Sugano
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13th Year Memorial
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Gwen Nishida
Robert & Leah Nishida

Gwen Nishida
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Dexter Nishiyama
Connie Matayoshi
Nishiyama
Craig & Cindy Ogawa
Natsuko Masushige
Ron & Fujie Ohata
Brother Kevin Ohata
Dana & Ann Saneto
Motoko Saneto
Satomi Saneto
Motoko Saneto
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Al Shigaki
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Takemoto
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Mamoru Frank Toji
Kathie & Marty Umemoto
Mother
Mitsuko Umemoto
Kathie & Marty Umemoto
Grandson Jayden Ito
Yukie Ushirogata
Tsune Matsushita, Goichi Ushirogata, Motoko Saneto
Betty Yamashita
Father Tokuso Takahashi

GOTANYE - MAY 2026

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Ellen Shimohara
Marilyn Shimabukuro & Gilbert Leong
Mark & Reiko Sunday
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Suzanne Toji
Mika Toyoura
Kathie & Marty Umemoto
Bernice Wakinaka
Vickie Wakinaka
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Betty & Tak Yamashita
Qris Yamashita & Chris Komai
Michael & Lily Yanagita
Arlene Yokoyama
Amy Yukawa

75TH ANNIVERSARY DONATIONS

Akamine, Don & Lynn
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In Memory of the
Domoto Family – Eiichi, Tsuchiyo, Toshihiro, & Lily
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Harada, James & Karen Harada,
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Kojima, Reverend Shumyo
Koyosan Beikoku Betsuin of Los Angeles
Los Angeles
Hompa Hongwanji
Matsubara, Dale & Tammy

75TH ANNIVERSARY DONATIONS cont'd

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 Minami, Jean
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 Mizutani, Garren & Stephanie
 Mori, Johnny & Wendy
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 Nakawatase, Richard
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 Oxnard Buddhist Temple
 Oxnard BWA
 Pasadena Buddhist Temple
 Sakurai, Regina
 San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
 Saneto, Dana & Ann

Shimabukuro, Marilyn & Gilbert Leong
 Shimamoto, Lisa
 Shojinaga, Shawn & Aya
 Sugano, Michiko
 Takanabe, Helen
 Takashi & Lily Hori Family Fund
 Takehara, Denise
 Torii, Reverend
 Yukari & Yoshikuni
 Toshima, Jean
 Toyoura, Mika
 Umemoto, Marty & Kathie
 Unno, Reverend Tets & Sumi
 Ushirogata, Yukie
 Vista Buddhist Temple
 Wakinaka, Bernice
 West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
 West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple
 Yahata, Connie & Neal
 Yamaguchi, Toshiko
 Yamashita, Betty & Tak
 Yamashita, Qris & Chris Komai
 Yoneda, Kiyo

Vehicle Donation

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

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

Once the proceeds from the vehicle donation are received by Senshin, a letter is sent to the donor to acknowledge the vehicle donation. The letter includes details of the donated vehicle and the amount for which the vehicle was sold or salvaged. All donors will be acknowledged in the *Prajna*.

If you have any questions about the program, or wish to donate a vehicle, please contact either Wilbur Takashima (310) 398-9558 or Marilyn Shimabukuro (818) 681-3837.

**Hondo Toban Volunteers Needed**

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

Our current roster has lost a few volunteers this past year, leaving some groups with less than four persons. Therefore, we first will ask for help to refill those positions. If we can get additional volunteers, we will set up a new group(s) of four. The tasks involved are as follows:

1. Dry mop beneath the pews to get the dust, dirt and debris out onto the carpeted aisles.
2. Vacuum the carpet in the Gejin 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 two "crying rooms", and straighten/arrange the furniture and chairs.
5. Vacuum the flooring area in the foyer and dust/clean the tabletops, and arrange items on the tables.
6. Wipe/clean the wooden parts of the pews with dust cloths.
7. Wipe/clean the wood sills below the windows.
8. Wipe/clean the organ.
9. Wipe/clean the three podiums (two tall, one short).
10. Arrange the service books in the holders on the backside of the pews.
11. Clean the minister's restroom, including the toilet and hand sink.

Unless we hold a funeral or service that uses the "crying rooms," task No. 4 may be skipped.

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

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

**YUIYO "JUST DANCE"**

My fondest memory of Senshin Obon while growing up was watching my mother, Grace Harada, dance during our Obon festivals. My mother really enjoyed dancing *odori*, teaching, and explaining the story behind the various dance movements (she was part of Komori Sensei's *odori* dance group). Her happiest moments would be during our Obons. Every time I dance *Bon Odori Uta*, I'm always reminded of her gracefulness and how much joy she felt whenever she danced. She truly embraced Rev. Mas' mantra of *Yuiyo*, "Just Dance!" I've seen great strides with people, both our members and visitors, in embracing the spirit of *Yuiyo* more and more.

Other memories I have of Senshin's Obon were seeing the service organizations dancing all together (back in the day, I can remember 7-8 organizations) in their distinctive happi coats. It was also great to

watch Mr. Henry Inouye playing the taiko drum to enhance the beat of the dances, along with Johnny Mori and George Abe. Senshin is so fortunate to have had such talented Obon drum players whose playing was so subtle, so unintentional, that the beats did not overpower the music but "backed up" the music. As a dancer, for me, the drumming was almost subliminal but sounding so natural to the music, as if they were both "one." While practicing the dances without drumming, one can tell something is missing until we hear the music/drumming the night of Obon.

An Obon tradition that is unique to Senshin is that Obon night is truly about celebrating "Obon" - remembering our ancestors and those that came before us to make our lives what it is today. Senshin always kept Obon separate from a carnival fundraising event. The few food booths that we do have are to support the dancers and attendees. We feel an obligation to have food/drink available for people that are willing to come out to participate and watch. After seeing the surge of youth participation in the last year or two, I feel very hopeful for the future of Senshin Obon. As long as we are able to attract and promote attendance and participation, our Senshin community has a good chance to flourish.

Submitted by JAMES HARADA

**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, presented by longtime members of Senshin. We hope you enjoy them.

Besides Yuiyo, another special part of Senshin Obon is the lighting of the 1,000 oil lamps. How did this wonderful tradition come about? In Dec 1974, Rev. Mas Kodani led a trip to India. Leo Sugano, a temple mem-



ber and potter went along on the trip. (Wilbur Takashima also went on this trip.) In Bodhgaya the group saw the temple with approx. 3,000 brass oil lamps placed by monks, surrounding the temple. Leo Sugano told Rev. Mas that he would throw 1,000 oil lamps and by the following Obon he delivered the lamps to Senshin. (It was 1,000 + an additional 100 or so to account for breakage). And thus, a beautiful tradition was born.

Updates & ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the Board B W A

Wow! We have had an incredibly eventful last two months with our 75th Anniversary\Keiro Kai Celebration and the Southern District Conference. These events could not have gone any better, and it was wonderful to see so many people come together in support of our Temple and Sangha. Our 75th Anniversary Celebration gave us an opportunity to honor our history and

We know that summer is here when it's Obon time! This year our Obon will be at the end of June. Look for the BWA booth if you want to pick up a delicious spam musubi.

And don't forget to "just dance" and have a good time!

We had a wonderful 75th Anniversary and Keiro Kai Celebration at the end of May! The BWA had a good



recognize the many members who have helped build our Temple community. We were also grateful to host the Southern District Conference and welcome and connect with friends from temples throughout the district.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy, support and especially your monetary donations to these events. The success of these events is a reflection of the dedication and generosity of our Sangha.

As we move through the summer, may we continue to carry the spirit of Senshin with gratitude and community. This is what makes our Temple such a special place.

In Gassho,
STAN FUKAWA

time performing "My Toban", our version of the Temptation's song "My Girl." Thank you to BWA members who participated and had fun singing and dancing together -- wearing our new BWA aprons and waving our BWA fans (made by Jana).

Thanks to Carrie M. for suggesting the song, and Carrie and Jana for the BWA twist on the lyrics. Our lead singers were Chris A. and our BWA Guys -- Neil Komai and Rev. Furumoto! Not quite David Ruffin Eddie Kendricks, and Diana Ross, but many thanks to them for leading us through the song.

Senshin Temple hosted the Southern District Buddhist Conference in June. The BWA helped with the morning refreshments, lunch preparation, and provided baked goods for the

dessert bar. Thank you to JoAnn K., who headed the conference committee and to all the BWA volunteers.

Coming up on July 19th is Kangi-e Service (Joyful Gathering) to honor and remember our ancestors and those who have passed away. The BWA will once again prepare *chirashi* for *otoki* after service.

The BWA and ABA will volunteer at Kei-Ai Bingo on Aug 23 after Temple Osoji. If you would like to join us for a nice time, please contact a BWA or ABA member.

Thank you for the following donations:

- Hirayama Family in memory of Kiyome Hirayama
- Richard Nakawatase in memory of Helen Nakawatase
- Linda Wong/Koichi Uyemura Russell & Jeni's wedding

ABA

Our performance at the 75th Anniversary celebration luncheon turned out to be a really spectacular one. We could see how surprised the whole room was to see us filing in dressed as the K-Pop *Demon Hunters* and the reaction we received from the audience was so precious: Everyone was laughing,



clapping, and really enjoying the performance! Rev. Furumoto was sitting right in front of us and we could tell he was our biggest fan. While prepping for the performance, we all had a good laugh at ourselves seeing everybody all in costume (the camaraderie was infectious). We would like to thank Debbie Hiramoto for coming up with



the whole idea and providing the pom-poms, Paula Shirasago for donating the Rumi and Zoey wigs (and microphone headsets), Joyce Isomoto for creating the Mira wig, and Glen for the background singers' headsets.

ABA is selling char siu baos at our Obon booth and many thanks to our members manning the booth. We also would like to thank Shelly Okamura, Rose Hom, and Keith Sawada, Glen and Joyce Isomoto, and JoAnn Komai for special donations!

Jr Y B A

Jr. YBA members have been helping out with Saishin Dojo as volunteers, which has been really fun. We are also busy planning the 76th Southern District Jr. YBL Conference, which we are co-hosting with San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple on August 29th-30th. Our theme is Dharma Olympics and we are looking forward to hosting it. If you have any questions or are interested in joining Jr. YBA, please contact



our parent advisor, Thai Checel, at thaichecel@gmail.com.



Saishin Dojo has had a ceramic component long before WasabiKai existed. I can't remember how I got involved exactly, but I decided to help by firing the small electric kiln which was previously done by Jeff Hiroto. He was so relieved to relinquish that chore and I soon realized why. The kiln was small and it took multiple firings to complete the students' work. WasabiKai and Saishin

Dojo partnered to purchase a larger electric kiln which we now use. WasabiKai's involvement also grew and the class projects improved as well.

Today the students come to the studio to work on their projects and are exposed to a totally different creative environment, a working ceramic studio. We hope that their exposure working with clay will imprint a positive experience which they may keep as they further their education. Each year we get excited to see what they create and it brings joy and satisfaction for our efforts. Saishin Dojo is an amazing program and we



are grateful to be a part of it. Thanks to all the teachers, administrators and helpers who make it happen.

I hope to have a class in late summer or fall depending on the Temple's calendar so stay tuned. Open studio will continue throughout



the summer. Questions... Bob Miyamoto 323.791.2719.



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SENSHIN-JI 2026 JULY 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	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taik		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30a BWA Reikai (in person & Zoom) 9:45a Japanese Howa 10a Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hōyō) <i>Following service</i> Donuts		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko	Saishin Dojo Culmination	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30a Temple Board Meeting 10a Family Service <i>Following service</i> Meetings: ABA, Jr. YBA, Sangha teens July 12-16 Saishin Dojo SLO Camp	Saishin Dojo Begins	10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
19 Obon Kangi-e Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:45a Japanese Howa 10a Obon Kangi-e Service Guest Speaker Rev. Kenjun Kawawata, Bishop of Higashi Honganji USA and Rinban of Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple <i>Following Service</i> Otoki, Chirashi served by BWA		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
10a Family Service <i>Following service</i> Bachi Babies Toddler Taiko		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		

JULY SERVICE Toban: DHARMA SCHOOL Monthly Toban group responsible for:

- **Weekly** Chair Sunday Service (Jr. YBA will chair service the 2nd Sunday each month)
- **July 5** Provide donuts/beverages following monthly memorial service
- **July 12** Provide/serve snacks and beverages for Temple Board Meeting

JULY Hondo Toban

Eugene Murakami
Carole Yokota
Richard Katsuda
Henry Matsumura

JULY ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

- 4** Linda/Koichi Uyemura
- 10*(Fri)** Cathy Iyemura
(Saishin Dojo Culmination)
- 18** Iris Takashima (Obon Kangi-e)
- 25** Kathy/Marty Umemoto
- Aug 1** Deb/John Hiramoto

**Flowers done on Friday due to scheduled events.*

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

AUGUST Upcoming Events

No Services

SENSHIN-JI 2026 AUGUST 2569

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No Service			10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No Service		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
No Service		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Service 9a-12p Osoji Following Osoji Kei Ai Bingo		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
30	31	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5
No Service		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		

No AUGUST SERVICE Toban

No AUGUST HONDO Toban

AUGUST ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

- 1 Deb/John Hiramoto
- 8 Suzanne Toji
- 15 Wendy/Johnny Mori
- 22 Denise Takehara
- 29 Marilyn Miyamoto

Sept 5 Yoko/Kelvin Nishikawa

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

SEPTEMBER Upcoming Events

- 27 Fall Higan Service

