

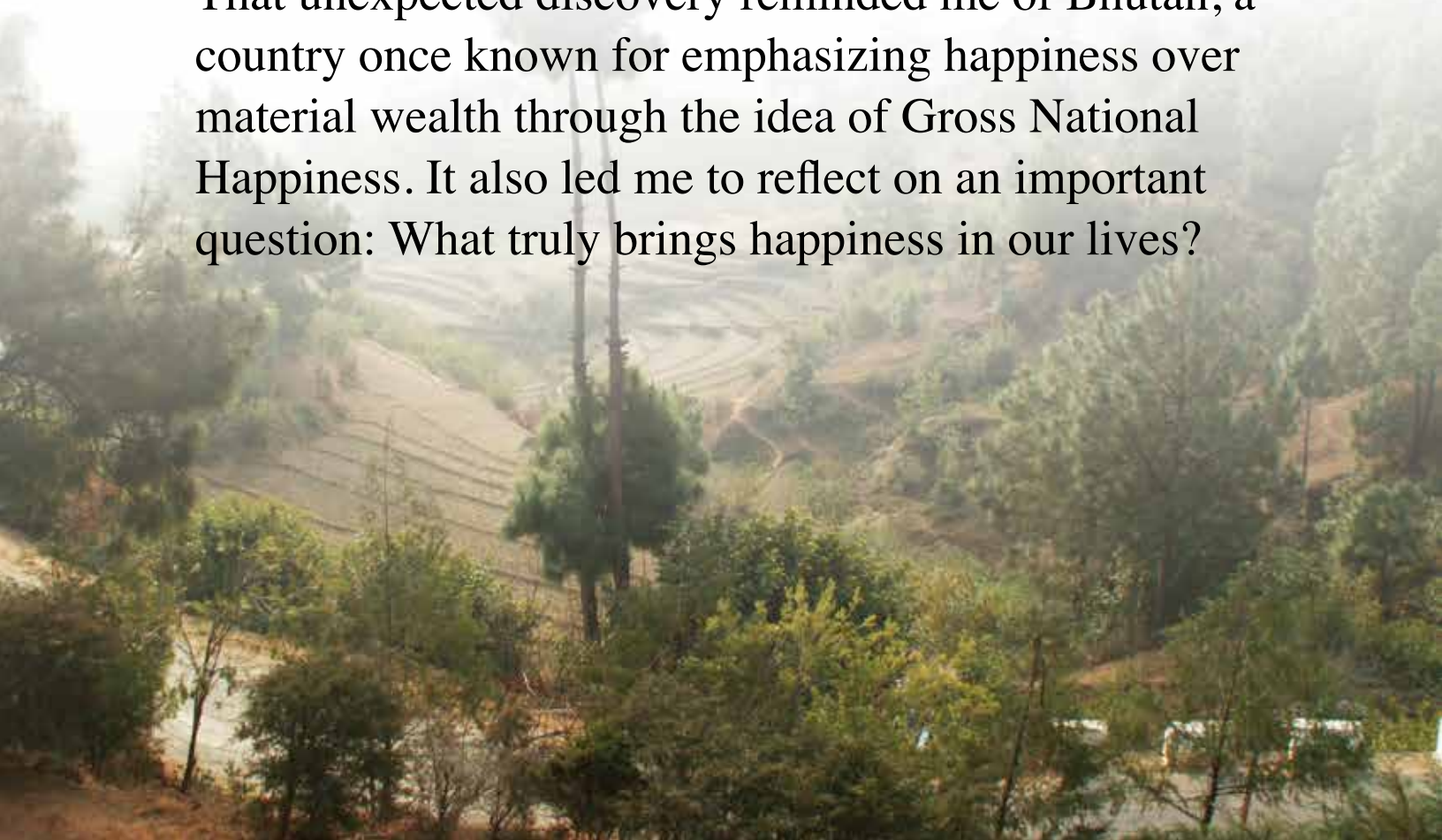
## Do I Know When I Am Satisfied?

Recently, while cleaning a desk drawer that once belonged to Mas-sensei, I discovered a small sticker from Bhutan hidden behind the drawer panel.

A close-up of a white sticker with a red heart and the text "I ♥ BHUTAN" in bold black letters, placed on a light-colored wooden surface.

I ♥ BHUTAN

That unexpected discovery reminded me of Bhutan, a country once known for emphasizing happiness over material wealth through the idea of Gross National Happiness. It also led me to reflect on an important question: What truly brings happiness in our lives?

A scenic view of a valley in Bhutan, showing terraced fields, lush green trees, and a misty atmosphere.

In our society, we often hear the message that “more is better,” such as more success, more money, more possessions, and more choices. Certainly, having enough food, safety, and opportunity is important. Yet even people who seem to have everything often still feel dissatisfied. Bhutan’s changing situation reminds

us of this reality. As technology and social media spread, people began comparing themselves to others around the world, and many who once felt content began to feel they lacked something. We experience the same thing today whenever comparison steals our peace of mind.

To reflect on this, I shared a Bhutanese folktale called *Meme Haylay Haylay*. In the story, a poor but content old man discovers a precious turquoise stone. Along his journey home, he repeatedly trades it away for a horse, then an ox, then a sheep, a goat, and finally a

rooster. From a material perspective, each exchange seems like a loss. Yet with every trade, the old man becomes happier. In the end, he trades the rooster simply to learn a beautiful song, and he returns home singing joyfully, believing he has made the best trade of all.

This story reminds us that happiness is not always determined by material value. Buddhism teaches contentment. In the Larger Sutra, there is a well known phrase: *Shoyoku Chisoku*, “to know contentment with fewer desires.” Rather than endlessly seeking more, we learn to appreciate what is already here. This teaching points us toward inner peace and gratitude.

In the Larger Sutra, this spirit is described as part of Dharmakara Bodhisattva’s practice. Although this is not a practice we can fully accomplish through our own power, as followers of Jodo Shinshu, we are encouraged to reflect this spirit in our daily lives. Through trying to live this way, we become aware of our greed and our deep, unremovable attachment to the self.

At Senshin, we even see this spirit expressed in the *tsukubai* phrase near the Nokotsudo: “I only know contentment” (*Ware Tada Taru wo Shiru*). We do not need to abandon everything we own, but we can reflect deeply on whether we know how to appreciate enough. The question is not simply, “How much do I have?” but rather, “Do I know when I am satisfied?”

“More is better” may sometimes be true. But without contentment, even more will never feel like enough. When we are reminded of contentment, we are also reminded of gratitude for all that supports our lives. To live with this gratitude is truly the spirit of Namo Amida Butsu.

## 足るを知る

最近、机の引き出しを掃除していたとき、「I Love Bhutan」と書かれたステッカーを見つけました。それは、マス先生がブータンに行った時に買われたステッカーでした。

ブータンは、国民総幸福量、Gross National Happiness という考え方を大切にきた国として知られています。経済的な豊かさだけでなく、人々がどれほど幸せを感じて生きているかを大切に考える考え方は、ブータンは経済的には豊かではないですが、国民の多くが「自分は幸せだ」と思っていた、ということでも有名になりました。そのことから、私たちの人生に本当の幸せをもたらすものは何なのかを、改めて考えました。

私たちの社会では、「多ければ多いほどよい」という考え方をよく耳にします。より多くの成功、より多くのお金、より多くの持ち物、より多くの選択肢。そのようなものがあれば、私たちはもっと幸せになれると思いがちです。もちろん、十分な食べ物があり、安全に暮らせる場所があり、学びや仕事の機会があることは、とても大切なことです。しかし一方で、たくさんものを持っているように見える人であっても、心の中では満たされない思いを抱えていることがあります。

ある調査によると、ブータンの若者は以前ほど、幸せを感じていないそうです。インターネットやソーシャルメディアが広がるにつれて、人々は世界中の人々の暮らしを見るようになりました。そして、自分の暮らしと他人の暮らしを比べる中で、かつては満足していた人々も、次第に「自分には何か足りない」と感じるようになっていったと言われます。

これは、私たちにもよくわかることではないでしょうか。ソーシャルメディアを見ていると、誰かが旅行に行ったり、素晴らしい食事をしていたり、楽

しそうな生活を送っていたりします。そのような姿を見るうちに、自分の生活が急に色あせて見えることがあります。実際には何も失っていないのに、比べることによって、心の平安を失ってしまうのです。

ここで、ブータンの民話である「メ・ヘイレイ・ヘイレイ」というお話を紹介しましょう。「メメ」は「おじいさん」を意味し、「ヘイレイ・ヘイレイ」は、のんびりとした、気楽な人柄を表しているようです。この物語には、貧しいけれども満ち足りて暮らしていた一人の老人が登場します。ある日、その老人は畑を掘っているときに、大きく美しいトルコ石を見つけます。それはとても価値のあるものでした。

老人はその石をかごに入れて、家へ帰る道を歩き始めます。すると途中で馬を連れた人に出会いました。老人はその人に、「この石と馬を交換しませんか」と言います。大きなトルコ石の方がずっと価値があるのですが、老人は喜んで馬と交換しました。そして相手も、老人も、どちらも得をしたように感じました。

その後、老人は馬を牛と交換し、牛を羊と交換し、羊を山羊と交換し、山羊を鶏と交換していきます。物質的な価値から見れば、交換するたびに損をしているように見えます。しかし老人は、そのたびに幸せを感じていきました。

の近くまで来たとき、老人は美しい歌声を耳にします。その歌を聞いているうちに、老人はとても幸せな気持ちになりました。そして、「この歌を聞いているだけでこんなに幸せなのだから、自分で歌えるようになったら、どれほど幸せだろう」と思います。そこで老人は、最後に持っていた鶏を差し出して、その歌を教えてもらいました。そして歌を口ずさみながら家に帰り、自分は最高の交換をしたのだと喜んだのです。

この物語を聞くと、私たちは「それはおかしい」「損をしているのではないか」と思うかもしれませんが。経済的な価値から見れば、その通りです。しかし、この物語が語っているのは、お金や物の価値ではありません。この物語は、幸せとは何かを私たちに問いかけているのです。

幸せは、必ずしもどれだけ多くのものを持っているかによって決まるものではありません。仏教では、足るを知ることが説かれています。『大無量寿経』には、「少欲知足」という言葉があります。「欲少なくして足るを知る」という意味です。限りなく多くを求め続けるのではなく、すでにいただいているもので、すでに支えられていることに気づいていくということです。

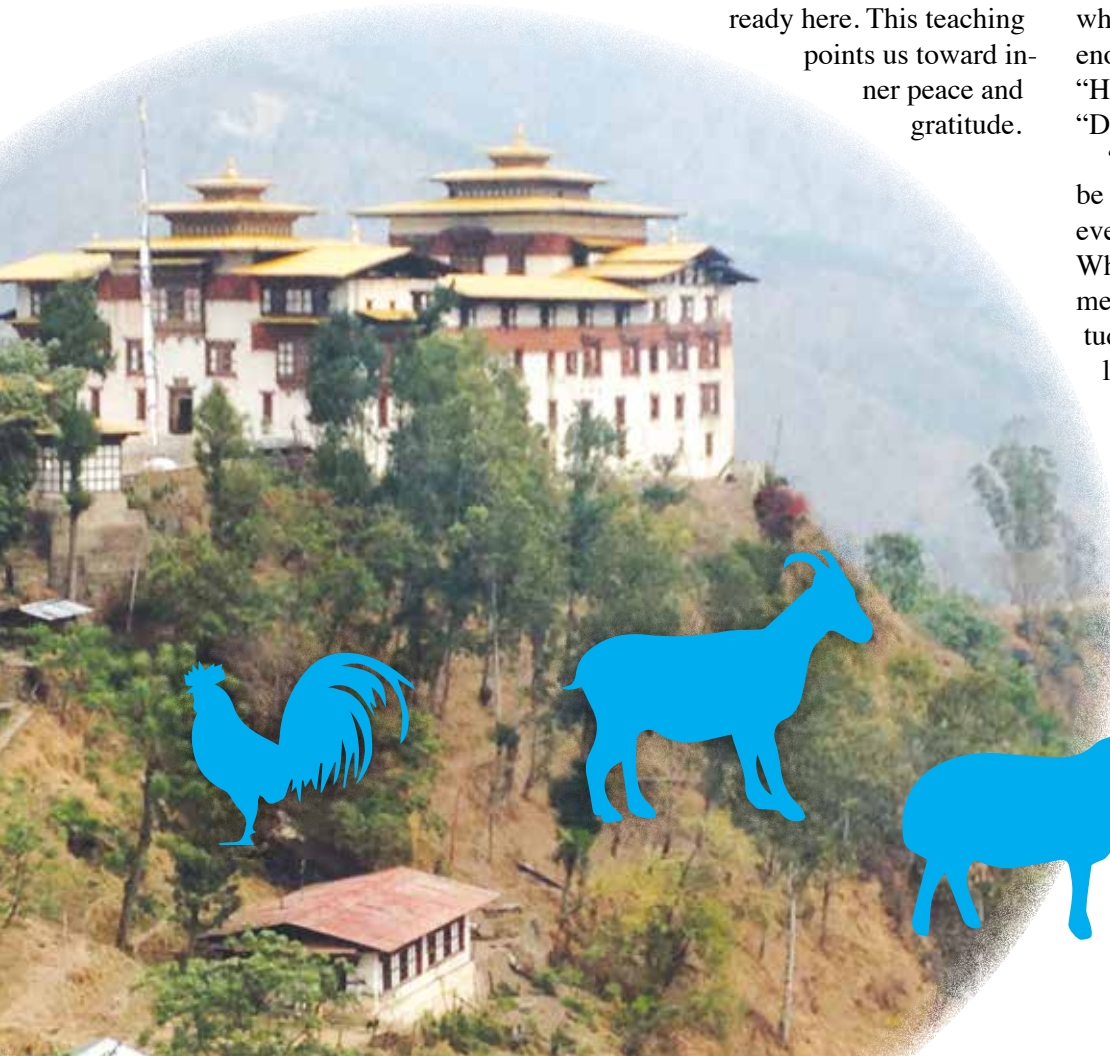
『大無量寿経』では、この精神は法蔵菩薩の修行の一つとして示されています。もちろん、浄土真宗において、私たちはこのような実践を自分の力で完全に成し遂げられる者ではありません。むしろ、どれほど足るを知ろうとしても、私たちの中には、もっと欲しい、もっと認められたい、もっと自分の思い通りにしたいという心が起こってきます。

だからこそ、少欲知足の教えにふれるとき、私たちは自分自身の姿に気づかされます。足るを知ることの大切さを聞きながらも、なかなか足るを知るのできない私がいる。感謝して生きたいと思いつつも、すぐに不満や比較の心にとらわれてしまう私がいる。そのような自分の貪りや、取り除くことのできない自己中心性に気づかされていくのです。

私たちは、ブータンの物語の老人のように、持っているものをすべて手放す必要はありません。しかし、自分は本当に「十分であること」を味わっているだろうか、と振り返ることはできません。大切な問いは、「私はどれだけ持っているか」だけではありません。むしろ、「私は満たされていることを知っているだろうか」ということです。

「多ければ多いほどよい」という考え方が、時には役に立つこともあるでしょう。しかし、足るを知る心がなければ、どれほど多くを得ても、それは決して十分には感じられません。足るを知ることが、南無阿彌陀仏の精神をいただく念仏者の生き方です。

南無阿彌陀仏



## Monthly Memorial JUNE 2026

Shotsuki Service June 7, 2026 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Akahori, Julie <i>Aunt Kawaye, Kathryn</i>	Matsumura, Henry <i>Uncle Yamaguchi, Tetsuro</i>	Sugita, Hideo <i>Father Sugita, Yoshiaki</i>
Akahori, Julie <i>Aunt Miyazaki, Sue</i>	Matsumura, Henry <i>Sister Matsumura, Nancy</i>	Takahashi Family: Elaine, Sumiji, Zen, Josyel Castellon, Gedon Phuntshog <i>Mother/Grandmother/ Great-Grandmother/Grand- mother-in-Law/Mother-in-Law</i> Takahashi, Misuko
Enami, Mariko <i>Mother Kuramoto, Tsutayo</i>	Minami, Jean <i>Mother-in-law Minami, Suma</i>	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Great Grandmother Sato, Mika</i>
Enami, Mariko <i>Husband Enami, Frank</i>	Murakami, Eugene <i>Grandfather</i> Murakami, Shinkichi	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Grandmother Taniguchi, Hisayo</i>
Hashimoto Family <i>Mother Hashimoto, Miwako</i>	Nakashita, Achi <i>Brother</i> Nakashita, Hiroshi Clark	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Uncle Taniguchi, Kiyoshi</i>
Hiramoto, John <i>Grandfather</i> Kanegawa, Shuiichi	Nakawatase, Richard <i>Grandmother</i> Nakawatase, Toku	Takemoto, Jon <i>Grandmother</i> Takemoto, Kanayo
Hisamune, Catherine <i>Mother Fujita, Shizuye</i>	Nakawatase, Richard <i>Uncle Nakawatase, Toshinobu</i>	Terakawa Family <i>Aunt Matsumune, Hisayo</i>
Ishizuka, Karen <i>Husband Nakamura, Robert</i>	Nakawatase Family <i>Grandmother Kuramura, Kikue</i>	Terakawa Family <i>Mother Terakawa, Yoshiko</i>
Kitayama, Glen <i>Grandfather</i> Kitayama, Eizaburo	Nishida, Russell <i>Grandfather Yamaguchi, Kinai</i>	Uyemura, Koichi <i>Grandmother</i> Wakamatsu, Chine
Kunitake, Kimiyo <i>Grandfather</i> Yamada, Shigenosuke	Nishikawa, Kelvin <i>Grandmother Yoshida, Isayo</i>	Watanabe, Marsha <i>Father Imai, Akio</i>
Kunitake, Kimiyo <i>Father Yamada, Masao</i>	Nishisaka, Merrie Nishisaka, Scott <i>Grandfather Sanada, Yukimasa</i>	Yamaguchi, Toshiko <i>Father-in-law</i> Yamaguchi, Kinai
	Rogers, Aki <i>Grandmother Nishi, Chitose</i>	Yoneda, Kiyoko <i>Mother-in-law Yoneda, Tsugi</i>
	Rogers, Aki <i>Grandfather Nishi, Soichiro</i>	Yoneda, Kiyoko <i>Sister Nakamura, Agnes</i>
	Sato Family <i>Grandmother Kishaba, Fusa</i>	Yukawa, Amy <i>Father Sugeta, Ben</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.

# Senshin 2026

## Obon Odori and 50th Anniversary of Sento Shogon

### Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG) Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu Learning from Senshin Service Book Wednesdays, June 3 and 10 (Zoom, 6:30 - 7:15pm)

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*.

### Saishin Dojo

This year, Saishin Dojo will begin on Monday, June 15, and end on Friday, July 10. We will have 58 students participating this year, including 21 students from Senshin families.

We sincerely appreciate your support and understanding of this program as we continue nurturing the next generation.

If you have any questions, please contact us at saishindojo87@gmail.com.

In Jodo Shinshu, **Obon** is called *Kangi-e*, "The Gathering of Joy." It is one of the most important observances in our Buddhist calendar year — a time of memorial and celebration in gratitude for our ancestors and all who have passed away.

**Obon** is an opportunity to reflect upon our deep indebtedness to those who came before us and to appreciate the countless causes and conditions that support our lives today. It is also a time to reaffirm the sacredness and interconnectedness of all living beings.

At Senshin, we express this spirit through **Bon Odori** dancing. In dancing together, we momentarily let go of self-consciousness, calculation, and the need to control. Through the simple act of dancing, we are reminded of our connection to one another and to those who came before us. Joy arises not from the ego getting its way, but from being freed, even briefly, from self-centeredness.

Senshin traditionally begins **Bon Odori** with **Awa Odori**, often called the "Dance of Fools." The famous phrase from the song says:

"The dancing fool and the watching fool are both fools, so why not dance?" To truly dance **Bon Odori** is to participate wholeheartedly — without pretense, embarrassment, or calculation — and to join together in this Gathering of Joy.

Following the dancing, everyone is invited to the *Hondo* for *Oshoko* and

**Sento Shogon, the lighting of memorial oil lamps** in the courtyard created by the late Senshin member Mr. Leo Sugano. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Senshin's *Sento Shogon* memorial lamp tradition. You are invited to light a lamp in memory of loved ones and all those to whom you are indebted.

The evening will conclude with *Otoki* and a *Horaku* presentation featuring Kinnara Taiko.



### Senshin Hatsubon & Bon Odori Saturday, June 27, 2026

**4:30pm Hatsubon Service**

Rev. Ryuta Furumoto & Rev. Kakuryu Kodani  
初盆法要

**5:30pm Otoki for Hatsubon Families**

初盆ご家族お齋

**7:00pm Bon Odori Begins**

盆踊り開始

**8:30pm Raffle Drawing**

福引抽選会

**9:00pm Hondo Omairi & Sento Shogon**

(50th Anniversary of the 1000 Memorial Lamps)

本堂お参り・千燈荘厳(五十周年)

**9:30pm Otoki**

お齋

**10:00pm Horaku – Kinnara Taiko**

法楽・緊那羅太鼓

**APRIL DONATIONS**

Arlene Yokoyama  
*Jana & Forrest Yumori's  
Wedding*

Qris Yamashita  
*Jana & Forrest Yumori's  
Wedding*

Minako Matsuoka  
*Funeral Service Orei*

Sachie Oda  
*Nokotsudo for Frank Oda*

Julia Takeda  
*Annual donation*

Dennis & Celia Huey *Dana*

Janis Ishitani  
*In memory of Kayoko  
Wada & Gayle Wada*

Dana & Ann Saneto  
*Nokotsudo*

David Gleeson &  
Lynn Kanda Gleeson  
*In memory of  
Paige Kiyoko Kathleen  
Gleeson*

Masao Kodani *Dana*  
Shelly Okamura *Nokotsudo*  
Dale & Tammy Matsubara  
*Dana-Special*

Torio Family  
*Funeral service for  
Taye Torio  
& Social Hall Use*

Edward & Helen Motokane  
*Donation*

**CHICKEN TERIYAKI DONATION**

Sachi Oda

James Okazaki

Don Akamine

Ellen Shimohara

Monica Saito

Michiko Sugano

James/Scott Tanaka

Reiko Ikkanda (Nishi)

Ernie Hida (Nishi)

Ken Kawasaki (Nishi)

Gwen Mayekawa

Koichi & Linda Uyemura

Suzanne Toji

Julie McCormick

Yoshiko & Shirley Yamaguchi  
*Donation of sarashi for  
Saishin Dojo*

Kenneth Hatai *Dana*

Dale Shirasago *Dana*

Martin Tachiki *Dana*

Mayumi Kodani *Dana*

Katherine Koyanagi *Dana*

**APRIL****FLOWER DONATION**

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa

Marilyn Shimabukuro

Jean Minami

Chikako Kojima

Lori & Russell Nishida

Ellen Shimohara

Ann & Dana Saneto

Paul Hiramoto

**APRIL SHOTSUKI HOYO**

Observant  
*In Memory Of*

Madalyne Adams  
Takeo Yamada

Stacey Camara  
Hana Unno

Lisa M. Hashimoto-Elardo  
Tatsuyo Hashimoto

Jane & Keith Hirayama  
Tsukasa Saneto

Joy & Duane Hirayama  
Tsukasa Saneto

Joy & Duane Hirayama  
Dick Imamura

Jeanne Imamura  
Imamura Family  
Dick Imamura

Chikako Kojima  
Mike Kojima

JoAnn & Neil Komai  
Yoshito Yamada

Judy Matsushige  
Natsuko Masushige

Jean Minami  
Kichitaro Minami

Garren & Stephanie Mizutani  
Hana Unno

Arthur Nakashita  
Yoshiko Nakashita

Richard Nakawatase  
Hideo Nakawatase

Lori & Russell Nishida  
Harry Nishisaka, Joe  
Nishida, Misa Yamaguchi

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa  
George Nishikawa, Wa-  
saku Nishikawa

Ronald & Fujie Ohata  
Uncle Ichiro Uyeno

Shelly Okamura  
*Mother Mary Tamura*

Michiko Sakakura  
Chizu Sakakura

Dana & Ann Saneto  
Tsukasa Saneto

Satomi Saneto  
Tsukasa Saneto

Marilyn Shimabukuro  
Shikko Shimabukuro

Ellen Shimohara & Family  
*Mother Kim Shinoda*

Yoko Elaine Takahashi &  
Gedun Phuntshog  
Yoshiharu Takahashi

Yoko Elaine Takahashi &  
Gedun Phuntshog  
*Grandmother  
Komatsu Nakamura*

Wilbur & Iris Takashima  
Yoshiko Takashima &  
Setsugo Taniguchi

Yukie Ushirogata  
*Sister Fumie Matsushita*

Bernice Wakinaka  
Mike Wakinaka, David  
Wakinaka

**HANAMATSURI****APRIL 2026**

Anonymous

Anonymous

Madalyn Adams

Christine Aihara

Julie Akahori

Roy & Jane Asahi

Don & Lynn Akamine

Debra & Stan Fukawa

James & Karen Harada

Sumiko Hayamizu

Bert & Dorothy Higa

Deb & John Hiramoto

Paul Hiramoto

Joy & Duane Hirayama

Catherine Hisamune

Patti Honkawa

Denise Ishitani

Janis Ishitani

Glen & Joyce Isomoto

Cathy Iyemura

Carrie Usui &  
Mathew Johnson

Karen Kimura Joo

Emi Kamikawa

Richard & Denise Kodani

Chikako Kojima

Doug Matsuda

Tammy & Dale Matsubara

Kazuo & Ikuko Matsubayashi

Joy Middo

Jean Minami

Marilyn & Dennis Miyamoto

Eugene & Elaine Murakami

Deb Nakatomi &

Bob Miyamoto

Judy Nakatani

Richard Nakawatase

Russell & Lori Nishida

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa

Dexter Nishiyama

Ron & Fujie Ohata

Shelly Okamura

Susan Omori

Michiko Sakakura

Dana & Ann Saneto

Keith Shimabukuro

Marilyn Shimabukuro &

Gilbert Leong

Ellen Shimohara

Mark & Reiko Sunday

Michiko Sugano

Kiyoe Suzuki

Wilbur & Iris Takashima

Steven & Shelley Takeyama

Yo Takeyama

Suzanne Toji

Mika Toyoura

Kathie & Marty Umemoto

Yukie Ushirogata

Nancy & Jim Usui

Vickie Wakinaka &

Gary Asano

Betty & Tak Yamashita

Mike & Lilly Yanagita

Greg Yee

Arlene Yokoyama

Amy Yukawa

**GOTANYE, MAY 2026**

Anonymous

Anonymous

Chris Aihara

Julie Akahori

Jane Asahi

Sumiko Hayamizu

Deb & John Hiramoto

Catherine Hisamune

Cathy Iyemura

Denise & Richard Kodani

Chikako Kojima

Richard Kok

Tammy & Dale Matsubara

Doug Matsuda

Joy Middo

Jean Minami

Eugene & Elaine Murakami

Russell & Lori Nishida

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa

Merrie Nishisaka

Ron & Fujie Ohata

Shelly Okamura

Marilyn Shimabukuro &

Gilbert Leong

Mark & Reiko Sunday

Michiko Sugano

Wilbur & Iris Takashima

Suzanne Toji

Kathy & Marty Umemoto

Michael & Lily Yanagita

Greg Yee

Arlene Yokoyama

# SCAM ALERT!!

Recently, email scams using the names of ministers have been circulating, so please be especially careful.

If you receive an email that appears to be from Rev. Furumoto asking you to purchase Amazon gift cards or any other gift cards for him, please do not respond. Delete the email immediately. This is a scam, and someone is using his name fraudulently.

Some of our members have already received this email, so please be careful and stay alert.

Rev. Furumoto, Rev. Mas, and other ministers will never ask you by email or text message to provide financial support, purchase gift cards, send money, or prepare surprise gifts for other members.

They will also never ask you to have a secret conversation about sending money or gift cards.

If you receive such an email or text message in the future, please disregard it.

However, if you are unsure, please call Rev. Furumoto or Rev. Mas directly, not by email or text, before sending anything.

We apologize for this trouble and thank you for your understanding.

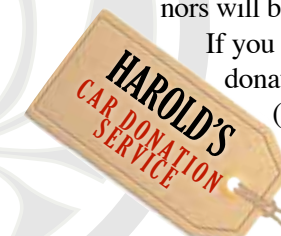
## Vehicle Donation

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.



## Thank you Mayumi Kodani for Saishin Dojo

**Saishin Dojo, the Buddhist summer program for children, was launched in 1987, which means this summer the program will begin its 39th year!**

As to the program's origin story, it all began when Rev. Mas Kodani did not know how he was going to occupy his daughter Mayumi over the long summer vacation and he shared his dilemma with Rev. Mohri and Rev. Hamada at Nishihongwanji. It turned out Rev. Mohri had long wanted to start a program for



gram was a great success. Everyone was so taken by the exuberant and unselfconscious chanting of the children during service. Parents and grandparents responded enthusiastically when the students brought home their homemade Japanese foods, like *tsukemono*, *musubi* and *tofu*. The knowledge and resources of the sensei and temple members were shared with the children and activities like *ikebana*, calligraphy, sumo wrestling, *bon odori*, ceramics, tie-dye, and *taiko* were incorporated into the program. Field trips to Little Tokyo, El Capitan Theatre, nearby museums and local swimming pools were added.

Each day begins with *Omairi*, starting with Silent Meditation, Walking Meditation and then service in the Hondo. Buddhist and Japanese values are modeled in the program, with strong emphasis on taking care of each other and respecting the temple. Every day a *Toban* group is assigned and is responsible for taking out the trash and wiping down the tables after activities. During free time, the children are not separated into grades but roam freely in play, and older children are encouraged to look out after the younger children.

Sixth graders culminate their completion of the program with a retreat to the San Luis Obispo Temple where they sleep in cabins and spend the days enjoying excursions to the beach, the tide pools, Oso Flaco Lake, Lake Lopez and the enormous sand dunes. In the beginning under the guidance of Wilbur Takashima and Terry Nakawatase, the group would also cook their own meals! In time, more volunteers were added to prepare meals, lead craft activities and help

with field trips.

In 2003 the program moved to Senshin Buddhist Temple as Nishi was under renovation. Held at Senshin the children have the run of the enclosed temple campus. Saishin Dojo continues today as a rich and rewarding program for children. No longer a program just for Senshin and Nishi members, Saishin Dojo welcomes members of other temples. A second generation, children of parents who attended previously, are now enrolling in the program.

Saishin Dojo is also facing challenges. Enrollment has been in decline, in part related to the decline in private preschool enrollment, impacted by free transitional kindergarten (TK) offered in public schools. It has also been increasingly difficult to find credentialed teachers with Buddhist backgrounds to replace teachers retiring from teaching.

Saishin Dojo alumni have wonderful memories of their Saishin Dojo experiences, they make long-lasting friendships and have a deeper exposure to Buddhist teachings and Japanese and Japanese American culture.

Thanks Mayumi for being its inspiration!

**Note to all:** Support the continuation of Saishin Dojo by helping to identify potential teachers, outreaching to families with young children and sharing your energy and skills.

Information for this article provided by Rev. Mas Kodani, Bessie Tanaka and Wilbur Takashima.

### HISTORICAL MEMORIES

For the 75th anniversary of Senshin Buddhist Temple, "HISTORICAL MEMORIES" are presented by longtime members of Senshin. We hope you enjoy them.

## Updates & ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Message from the Board

Can you believe it's already *Obon* season? It feels like the year is moving so quickly. We hope everyone can join us for our *Obon* festivities and, if possible, lend a helping hand as we prepare for another wonderful community event.

I also wanted to share that our 75th Anniversary Anitya Fundraiser has now come to a close. This fundraiser supported our Temple beautification projects and important repairs throughout the Temple grounds. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, the Temple looks amazing, and these improvements have truly made a meaningful difference for our Sangha and community.

I would also like to extend a very special thank you to Russell Nishida and Kate Meigneux for being so instrumental in the repairs, planning, and design work throughout the project. Their dedication and vision helped bring many of these improvements to life. Special thanks as well to Neil Komai for leading such a successful fundraising campaign and helping

make these projects possible.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and supported these efforts in so many ways. Your generosity and care for the Temple continue to help preserve and strengthen our wonderful community for future generations.

In Gassho,  
STAN FUKAWA

### BWA

It's hard to believe that June and summer are here! Time goes by so quickly when you're having fun and a good time is always had by the BWA. We enjoyed Dharma School's *Kodomo no Hi* event at the beginning of May. Thank you to Fujie O. who coordinated volunteers (Kathie, Arlene, Donna, Lily, Iris, JoAnn, Wendy, Emi, Mia and Joy), to make 150 musubi for the kids and families to enjoy. The BWA thanks Jana for organizing the kids' activities. We loved seeing so many smiling little ones participating.

The Southern District Buddhist Conference will occur at Senshin on June 13th. BWA is tasked with setting

up the morning hospitality refreshments, preparing and serving lunch and the dessert bar.

The Obon 2026 season is just around the corner on June 27th! The Sangha and the Senshin community will come together for this year's Obon to honor those that have passed away, to enjoy the dancing, to light 1,000 oil lamps, and to listen to the rhythms of taiko. The BWA will have the ever popular spam musubi for sale and hopefully some delicious cookies too. Thank you to all of the volunteers who will help in the kitchen and in the BWA booth.

Thank you for the following donations:

- Bernice Wakinaka *thank you for otoki*
- Kimiyo Kunitake *thank you for otoki*
- Shelly Okamura *in memory of Mother Mary Tamura*
- Sandra Aguilar *special*

### ABA

Many thank you's to our ABA members for helping with Senshin's 75th Anniversary celebration. ABA has been working hard and having loads of fun at our rehearsals for our luncheon performance. We hope everyone at the luncheon will enjoy watching us as much as we are having fun performing. For the upcoming Southern District Buddhist Conference hosted by Senshin, much gratitude to the ABA representatives that are volunteering to help out with various duties around the campus.



children, teaching Buddhism and Japanese culture. Recruiting Bessie Tanaka, an elementary school and Dharma School teacher, the four of them started Saishin Dojo. (*Sai* means "west" from Nishihongwanji and *shin* means "mind/body" from Senshin. *Dojo* is a temple, with the implication of being a place where enlightenment is cultivated.)

The goals of Saishin Dojo were to promote the Buddhist teachings, introduce Japanese and Japanese American culture and provide academic learning for children. The program recruited participants through the temples' membership and the on-site Nishi Preschool.

In the beginning there were three grades; 1st grade taught by June Kondo, 2nd and 3rd grades taught by Bessie Tanaka and Terry Nakawatase respectively. Every succeeding year, as Mayumi Kodani aged, another grade was added, until the final 6th grade class.

From the beginning, the month-long pro-



## Jr YBA

Jr. YBA was able to participate in many fun events last month, including performing at the 75th anniversary event and charring service! We're looking forward to many upcoming events this June, such as making shave ice for the Southern District Conference on June 13th. We'll also be helping out with the refreshments and shave ice booth at Senshin's Obon on the 27th. If you have any questions or are interested in joining Jr. YBA, please don't hesitate to contact our parent advisor, Thai Checel, at [thaichecel@gmail.com](mailto:thaichecel@gmail.com).

## Sangha Teens

Sangha Teens had a nice mid-day snack with boba and Japanese food at their last meeting of the year. Sangha Teens are grateful to the temple for being able to do many diverse activities and to explore the many nuances of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.



This year, as has the past few years, is flying by. The *Prajna* complicates things. It's May 11th as I write this. I'm sure the 75th Celebration was a great success and everyone had a great time. Of course it hasn't happened yet. What happened was our Chicken Teriyaki fundraiser. Afterwards the feedback: "this year tasted the best, or the chickens were too small/ big, the beans were great or not, we made too much sauce, etc..." But for me it was another perfect temple event... got to see peeps who always show up to lend a hand, younger generation eager to help, the OG's doing their magic... setting up all the stations, manning the steamers, soaking the birds in secret sauce #1, the pit masters stoking the fire and insuring the final application of secret sauce #2 is applied, finally

## Obon Raffle

On Saturday June 27, 2026, Senshin will hold its annual Raffle during Bon Odori intermission. The Obon Raffle is one of our temple's major fundraisers to support religious programs. Raffle ticket mailings were just mailed out and ask that if you are able to support the fundraiser, please send back the ticket stubs and donation check so they are received at the Temple office by Tuesday, June 23. Winners will be drawn just after Bon Odori intermission. The suggested donation for each ticket is \$5 per ticket or \$50 per book. A free ticket can be obtained at the temple office. Winners need not be present.

We are also requesting your help with prize donations. We appreciate and welcome any prize donation you can give and hope this extra request will not be a hardship. We are grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you at Bon Odori! If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Hiramoto at (626) 232-4736 or [debhiramoto@gmail.com](mailto:debhiramoto@gmail.com).



the birds get the "looks good" and are taken to be cooled and boxed. The kitchen is always filled with laughter, good food and drinks. This event is something to behold...and although it's a ton of work...it shows what can be accomplished when we work together. Thanks to everyone who participated in making it a success.

The point I'm trying to make is that *Prajna* forces me out of the present. Today is Mother's Day and I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mothers present and past.

WasabiKai will be participating in Saishin Dojo again this year and will schedule a class in late summer, dates TBD.

## Senshin Karate Class

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



## Senshin Beer Brewing Event

Over this two day event, Senshin members helped brew and can our Commemorative Beer. This particular sushi rice lager won the Silver medal in the 2026 World Beer Cup!

It was a unique and fun experience and one of our many events planned for our 75th Anniversary. Our thanks to Kirk.



In May we had our annual *Hatsumairi* presentation as part of our *Gotanye* service. This year, we had one child who was presented in front of the *Onajin*. Born on March 13, 2024, his parents are Lauren Ohata and Joel Chang. We hope to see them at Senshin services and activities!



HANAMATSURI 2026



CHICKEN TERIYAKI 2026



# SENSHIN-JI 2026 JUNE 2569

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p (Zoom) Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Chanting, Ritual & Buddhist etiquette in Jodo Shinshu, Learning from Senshin Service Book.	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
8:30a BWA Reikai (in person & Zoom) 9:45a Japanese Howa 10a Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hōyō) and Sunday Service Following service Donuts		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p (Zoom) SBG: Chanting, Ritual & Buddhist etiquette in Jodo Shinshu, Learning from Senshin Service Book.	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko 7p Obon practice		8:30a Senshin hosts Southern District Buddhist Conference
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
8:30a Temple Board Meeting 10a Family Service, Rev. Mark Unno Following service Meetings: ABA, Jr. YBA, Sangha teens	Saishin Dojo Begins	10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7p Obon practice	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko 7p Obon practice		
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
8a Jr YBA Parent's Day Breakfast 10a Family Service. Following Service Youth Kinnara Taiko After Youth Taiko Obon Practice		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 7p Obon practice	10:30a-2p WasabiKai 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		4:30p Senshinji Hatsubon Service 7p Senshinji Bon Odori 9p Omairi in Hondō, Sentō Shōgon (1000 oil lamps) 9:30p Horaku, Kinnara Taiko
<b>28 No Service</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	July 1	2	3	4

10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio

- JUNE SERVICE Toban: TEMPLE** Monthly Toban group responsible for:
- Weekly Chair Sunday Service (Jr. YBA will chair service the 2nd Sunday each month)
  - June 7 Provide donuts/beverages following monthly memorial service
  - June 14 Provide/serve snacks and beverages for Temple Board Meeting

### JUNE Hondo Toban

Wilbur Takashima  
Iris Takashima  
Glen Isomoto  
Joyce Isomoto

### JUNE ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

6 Mika Toyoura/Karen Kimura Joo  
12\* (Fri) Shelly Okamura/Karen Harada (SD Conference @ Senshin)  
20 Sandra Aguilar  
27 JoAnn Komai (Hatsubon)  
July 4 Linda/Koichi Uyemura

\*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) 951-0160

### JULY Upcoming Events

10 Saishin Dojo Culmination  
19 Kangi-e Service

**Senshin Buddhist Temple  
Obon Practice Schedule:**

Thursday, **June 11**, 7pm

Tuesday, **June 16**, 7pm

Thursday, **June 18**, 7pm

Sunday, **June 21**,  
after Youth Taiko

Wednesday, **June 24**, 7pm



**BCA SOUTHERN DISTRICT  
2026 OBON SCHEDULE**

<u>June 6</u>	Arizona Buddhist Temple
<u>June 20 &amp; 21</u>	Sun Valley Buddhist Temple
<u>June 27</u>	West Covina Buddhist Temple
<u>June 27 &amp; 28</u>	San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
<u>June 27</u>	Senshin Buddhist Temple
<u>July 11</u>	Oxnard Buddhist Temple
<u>July 11 &amp; 12</u>	L.A. Betsuin
<u>July 18</u>	Santa Barbara Pasadena Buddhist Temple
<u>July 18 &amp; 19</u>	Orange County Buddhist Church Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
<u>July 25 &amp; 26</u>	Vista Buddhist Temple West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
<u>August 1</u>	Buddhist Temple of San Diego
<u>August 1 &amp; 2</u>	Gardena Buddhist Church
<u>August 15</u>	Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha