

The Mind of a Bonbu

A Lesson Passed Down at Senshin

Bonbu means an ordinary or foolish being—a person who is continually influenced by an ego-centered mind.

Recently, my parked car was hit by another vehicle. I was not inside the car, so I was not injured. However, the accident revealed something important about my own mind.

It reminded me of a story about Rev. Kuwatsuki that has been passed down at Senshin for more than seventy years. Many of us have heard this story from Kuwatsuki Sensei himself, from Mas Sensei, or from one of our elder members.

Kuwatsuki Sensei was Senshin's first resident minister and also served as superintendent of Senshin Gakuin, our Japanese language school. He served at Senshin from 1951 to 1958, and some of our elder members still remember him.

Kuwatsuki Sensei had a son who was still in elementary school. One day, his son said that he was going outside to play with his friends.

Kuwatsuki Sensei said, "*Itterasshai*," and his son left the house. A short time later, Kuwatsuki Sensei heard the sound of a car accident. Then he heard someone shout, "A boy was hit by a car!" Immediately, he thought, "That may be my son." He rushed outside and went to the accident scene. When he arrived, he discovered that the injured boy was not his son.

His first thought was, "*Yokatta*. Thank goodness. What a relief." But immediately, Kuwatsuki Sensei felt ashamed of his reaction. Was it really all right simply because the injured boy was someone else's son? Another child had been hit by a car, and another family was suffering. Yet his first feeling was relief because it was not his own child.

At that moment, Kuwatsuki Sensei saw his own ego-centered mind. He realized, "When my own family is safe, I easily forget



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At that moment, Kuwatsuki Sensei saw his own ego-centered mind. He realized, “When my own family is safe, I easily forget about the suffering of others.” He honestly faced the mind of a *bonbu* within himself.

I have heard this story many times. But through my recent accident, I realized that this was not only Kuwatsuki Sensei’s story. It was also my story. That morning, I went to the flower market to purchase flowers for the temple altar. I found a parking space on the street, parked the car, and went into the market.

About fifteen minutes later, when I returned, I discovered that the front of the car had been badly damaged. The headlight cover was broken, and pieces were scattered across the street.

A short distance away, I saw a silver SUV against a tree. Another vehicle nearby had also been damaged. Someone at the scene told me that the silver SUV had struck my parked car and the other vehicle before hitting the tree.

The driver was sitting on the curb, and paramedics soon arrived to assist him. I later learned that he was an elderly man. I was concerned about him and sincerely hoped that he would be all right.

I exchanged the necessary information, contacted the insurance company, and waited for the police and the tow truck. Altogether, I was there for about three hours.

But during those three hours, what was going through my mind?

When I first saw the damage, I thought, “This is going to be *mendokusai*—such a hassle.”

I thought, “I have to call the insurance company. This is going to take a long time. I cannot return to the temple, and the flowers may begin to wilt. If the flowers are no longer fresh, I will have to come back to the market tomorrow to buy more. I have many emails to answer, and I still have to prepare the Dharma message for Sunday.”

I also wondered, “Will I be able to get the driver’s information? If I cannot get his driver’s license and insurance information, what is going to happen to my car?”

In fact, it was not even my car. It was the temple’s car.

Of course, I was concerned about the driver. Nevertheless, my thoughts kept returning to “me, me, me”—my car, my schedule, and my own inconvenience.

Then I remembered Kuwatsuki Sensei’s story.

His first thought had been, “Thank goodness it was not my son.”

My first thought was, “What is going to happen to my car?”

Through this accident, I was shown the strength of my own ego-centered mind. I realized once again, “I am a *bonbu*.” *Bonbu* means an ordinary, foolish being like ourselves—a person whose thoughts are repeatedly drawn back toward “me,” “my family,” “my possessions,” and “my convenience.”

Our ego-centeredness is not something that we can completely remove through our own efforts. Even when we try to be kind, patient, and compassionate, selfish thoughts, anger, frustration, and anxiety continue to arise. Jodo Shinshu is the teaching for people like us. Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow is not a reward for those who have successfully removed their ego. It is directed toward those of us who cannot free ourselves from our ego-centered passions. The Nembutsu is not a technique that we use to make ourselves perfect. Through the light of Amida’s wisdom, our ego-centered mind is revealed. At the same time, we are assured that we are embraced by Amida’s boundless compassion and will never be abandoned.

凡夫の心

「凡夫」とは、普通の人、という意味ですが、仏教では悟ってない者のことをいいます。それは、自己中心的な心に絶えず動かされている私たちのことです。自己中心だと「自分さえよければいい」という考えになりがちで、結果、人にも自分にも苦しみをもたらすことになってしまうので、愚かな存在だと言われます。

ところで、先日、路上に駐車していた私の車が、別の車にぶつけられて、車が全損してしまいました。私は車内にいなかったため、けがはありませんでしたが、この事故を通して、自分が「凡夫」だということをあらためて知らされました。そして、洗心で七十年以上にわたって語り継がれてきた、桑月先生のお話を思い起こしました。

皆さんの中には、桑月先生ご本人から、マス先生から、あるいは洗心の古くからのメンバーから、この話を聞いたことがあると思います。

桑月先生は、洗心の初代開教使で、一九五一年から一九五八年まで洗心に駐在されました。

当時、桑月先生には、小学生の息子さんがおられました。ある日、息子さんが友達と外で遊んでくると言いました。桑月先生が「いってらっしゃい」と声をかけると、息子さんは家を出ていきました。しばらくすると、桑月先生は車が衝突する音を耳にしました。そして、誰かが「あっ、男の子が車にはねられた!」と叫ぶ声が聞こえました。先生はすぐに、「息子かもしれない」と思いました。家を飛び出して事故現場へ駆けつけると、車にはねられた男の子は、先生の息子さんではありませんでした。

そのとき、先生の心に最初に浮かんだのは、「ああ、よかった。安心した」という思いでした。しかし、その直後、桑月先

生は、そのように反応した自分を恥ずかしく思いました。「けがをしたのが自分の息子でなければ、本当によかったのだろうか」と。

悟りを目指す者ならば、他人の苦しみは自分の苦しみとして、慈悲の心をおこすべきです。けれども、先生の最初の気持ちには、自分の子どもではなかったというだけで、「よかった」だったのです。そのとき、桑月先生は、ご自身の自己中心的な心に気づかされました。「自分の家族が無事であれば、私は他の人の苦しみを簡単に忘れてしまう。」先生は、どうしても取り除くことのできない、自分の内にある凡夫の心に気づかれたのです。

私はこの話を何度も聞いてきましたが、今回の事故を通して、これは桑月先生だけの話ではなく、これは、私自身の話でもあったとあらためて気づかされました。

その日の朝、私はお寺の仏前にお供える花を買うため、フラワーマーケットへ行きました。路上に駐車スペースを見つけ、車を停めてマーケットに入りました。十五分ほどして戻ってくると、車の前部がひどく壊れていることに気づきました。ヘッドライトのカバーは割れ、その破片が道路に散らばっていました。少し離れたところには、木に衝突したSUVがあり、その近くにあったもう一台の車も損傷していました。現場にいた人によると、そのSUVが私の駐車していた車ともう一台の車にぶつかり、その後、木に衝突したとのことでした。

運転手は高齢者の方で、縁石に座っており、間もなく救急隊員が到着して介抱にあたりました。後に、私は事故処理に必要な情報を交換し、保険会社に連絡し、警察とレッカー車の到着を待ちました。結局、私はその場所に三時間ほどいることになりました。

しかし、その三時間のあいだ、私の心には浮かんでいたことは、「自分、自分、自分」ということです。

車の損傷を初めて見たとき、私は「これは面倒だ。大変なことになった」と思いました。「保険会社に電話しなければならない。時間がかかりそうだ。お寺に戻ることができないし、花がしおれ始めるかもしれない。花が新鮮でなくなったら、明日またマーケットに来て買い直さなければならない。返信しなければなら

ないメールもたくさんあるし、日曜日の法話も準備しなければならない、、、」さらに、私はこのようにも考えていました。「車をぶつけた人の運転免許証や保険の情報を受け取れるだろうか?もし受け取れなかったら、私の車はどうなるのだろうか?」もちろん、私は運転手のことも心配していました。それでも、私の中心の思いは「自分の」車、予定、都合、でした。

そのとき、私は桑月先生の話を出しました。先生の最初の思い、「自分の息子でなくてよかった」と同様、私の最初の思いは、「自分の車はどうなるのだろうか」でした。

この事故を通して、私は自分の内にある自己中心的な心の強さを知らされました。そして、あらためて「私は凡夫だ」と気づかされたのです。

凡夫とは、私たちのような、ごく普通の愚かな存在です。その思いは、いつも「私の家族」「私の持ち物」「私の都合」と自分ファーストです。この自己中心性は、自分の努力によって完全に取り除くことのできるものではありません。親切で、忍耐強く、思いやりのある人になろうとしても、身勝手な思いや怒り、苛立ち、不安が次々と湧き起こってきます。

浄土真宗とは、まさにそのような私たちのための教えです。阿弥陀さまの本願は、自分のエゴを取り除くことができた人に与えられるご褒美ではありません。自己中心的な思いから離れることのできない私たちに、無条件に向けられています。

親鸞聖人は『一念多念文意』に、次のように記されています。

「凡夫は、すなわちわれらなり」と、他の人でなくて、自分が凡夫だと知りなさい、と言われます。そして、「阿弥陀さまは、信心の人が正定聚の位に定まり、必ず涅槃に至ると誓われています」

と、この凡夫である私こそが、阿弥陀さまの救いのはたらきに摂め取られていると示してくださっています。

完全な涅槃は浄土に生まれたときにより、すでにこの人生において、涅槃へ至る道を歩ませていただいています。注意しないといけないのは、そのはたらき

Continued on page 8

Monthly Memorial SEPTEMBER 2026

Shotsuki Service Sunday, September 13 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Akahori, Julie
Mother Akahori, Tomiko

Akahori, Julie
Uncle Miyazaki, Fred

Checel, Thai
Nakamura, Tadashi
Grandfather
Nakamura, Harukichi

Harada, James
Father Harada, Tom

Hayamizu, Sumiko
Husband Hayamizu, Robert T.

Ikari, Kathy
Husband Ikari, Kei

Ito Family
Mother Ito, Toshiye

Kitayama, Glen
Mother
Kitayama, Kimiko Esther

Kitayama, Glen
Grandmother
Kitayama, Kimiko

Kitayama, Glen
Grandmother Nakagawa, Ritzu

Kok, Richard
Father Kok, Yoke Chuan

Kodani, Masao
Wife Kodani, Shirley

Kodani, Richard
Father Kodani, Fred

Kojima, Chikako
Father-in-law Kojima, Tom

Kunitake, Kimiyo
Grandmother Wada, Tamae

Kunitake, Kimiyo
Grandmother Yamada, Tsugi

Matsuda Family
Father Matsuda, Miyoshi

Miyata, Satoshi
Mother Miyata, Taka

Mori, Johnny
Mother Mori, Tsutaye

Murakami, Julia
Mother Murakami, Lena Hisako

Murakami, Eugene
Brother Murakami, Raymond

Nishikawa, Kelvin
Grandfather
Yoshida, Frank Eiichi

Oda, Cindy
Mother Tomita, Misao

Ogawa Family
Father Ogawa, Kikuo

Rooks, Mariko
Grandmother Rooks, Kikuyo

Sawada, Keith
Grandmother Oshita, Umeko

Shimabukuro, Marilyn
Aunt Oshiro, Misao

Shimabukuro, Marilyn
Grandmother
Shimabukuro, Yoshiko

Shimohara, Ellen
Father-in-law
Shimohara, Henry

Shirasago Family
Brother Shirasago, Glenn

Shirasago Family
Father Shirasago, George

Sugano, Michiko
Grandmother-in-law
Kanazawa, Fude

Takashima, Iris
Father Jinde, Seichi

Takashima, Wilbur
Great Grandmother
Takashima, Haru

Takeuchi Family
Takeuchi, Yoshiko

Tanezaki, Barbara
Father Kakita, Bene

Terrell, Jackie
Father-in-law
Fukumoto, Katsumi

Tsunoda, Satsuko
Father-in-law Tsunoda, Yaichi

Umemoto, Marty & Kathie
Grandmother Akamichi, Ishi

Umemoto, Marty & Kathie
Father Matsuda, Miyoshi

Unno Family
Unno, Rev. Enryo

Usui Family
Father Usui, Roy

Uyemura, Koichi
Father Uyemura, Tamio

Wakinaka, Bernice
Son Wakinaka, Lester

Wakinaka, Bernice
Nephew Nagaoka, Rick

Yamano, Fred & Patty
Daughter
Kent, Staci Yamano

Yoneda, Kiyoko
Husband Yoneda, Kazuo

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

Fall Ohigan Service and Seminar

Sunday September 27

Our Fall Ohigan (Equinox) Service and Seminar will be held on Sunday, September 27. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Rim-ban of Sacramento Betsuin.

Fall Ohigan Schedule

Sunday, September 27

Guest Speaker: Rev. Yuki Sugahara

9:45am Japanese Howa

10:00am Fall Ohigan Service

Following the Service Seminar

Following the Seminar Otoki

Seminar Topic "Take Refuge in Amida, the Music of Purity" (Shōjōgaku o Kimyō Seyo) Rev. Sugahara will

Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG)

Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu Learning from Senshin Service Book

Wednesdays,
September 9, 16 & 23
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.

perform several songs with his bass guitar and share the Jodo Shinshu teaching of the Nembutsu through music.

秋のお彼岸法要ならびにセミナーのご案内

9月27日(日)午前10時より、秋のお彼岸法要をお勤めいたします。法要後にセミナーを行い、その後、お斎(おとし)があります。

法要ならびにセミナーのご講師は、 sacrament 別院輪番の菅原祐軌師です。

皆さまお誘い合わせのうえ、ぜひお参りください。

A Special Weekend with Ministers from Tsukiji Hongwanji

Gagaku Workshop at Senshin SD BEC Tri-Temple Seminar

Please join us for a special session with ministers from Tsukiji Hongwanji in Tokyo.

Saturday, September 5, 2026

10:00am-12noon

Senshin Buddhist Temple

PROGRAM

Gagaku practice of Bairo
Lecture on how to organize a Chigo Procession

Gagaku musicians are invited to participate in the Bairo practice, and everyone is welcome to observe and learn about these important Buddhist musical and cultural traditions.

Those who practice Bairo at this session will have an opportunity to perform it with the Tsukiji Hongwanji ministers and Kinnara Gagaku at the SDBEC Special Seminar the following afternoon at Los Angeles Nishi Betsuin.

No registration or participation fee is required.

SDBEC Special Seminar

Please join us for a special seminar presented by ministers from Tsukiji Hongwanji.

Sunday, September 6, 2026

1:00-3:30pm

Doors open at 12:30pm

Los Angeles Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
815 E. 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

THREE-PART PROGRAM

Joint Gagaku Concert A collaborative performance by the Tsukiji Hongwanji ministers and Kinnara Gagaku, associated with Senshin Buddhist Temple. The program will include Bairo, practiced during Saturday's workshop.

Presentation by Tsukiji Hongwanji Ministers Learn about the activities and new initiatives of Tsukiji Hongwanji in an increasingly global Tokyo.

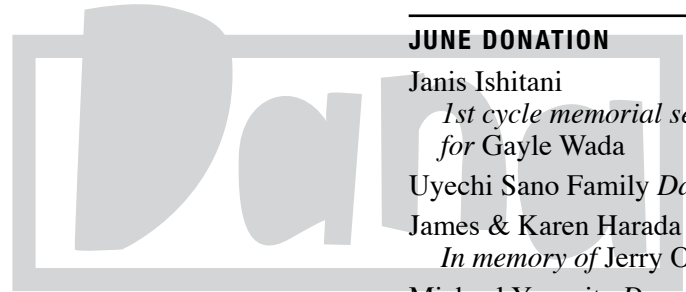
Presentation by Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara Rev. Kuwahara will discuss the current state of Shin Buddhist ministry in the North American District and the initiatives of the Jodo Shinshu International Office.

Optional Lunch

12noon in the Lotus Room
Lunch will be prepared by the Nishi Jr. YBA. Cost: \$10 per person

Admission to the seminar

Free; donations are welcome. If you are interested in attending the seminar, please contact the temple.



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.



JUNE DONATION

Janis Ishitani
1st cycle memorial service for Gayle Wada
Uyechi Sano Family *Dana*
James & Karen Harada
In memory of Jerry Ogawa
Michael Yanagita *Donation*
Donna Ebata
1st year memorial for Bob Nakamura
Karen Ishizuka
1st year memorial for Bob Nakamura
Susan & Edmond Young
Nokotsudo
Alice Unno *Dana*
Karen Ishizuka
Hatsubon for Bob Nakamura
Munekata Family
Hatsubon for Yooko Munekata
Mark & Nancy Munekata
Hatsubon for Yooko Munekata
Ann & Dana Saneto
Hatsubon for Kiyome Hirayama
Duane & Joy Hirayama
Hatsubon for Kiyome Hirayama
Bruce Hirayama
Hatsubon for Kiyome Hirayama
Jane & Keith Hirayama
Hatsubon for Kiyome Hirayama
Craig & Cindy Ogawa
Hatsubon for Jerry Ogawa
Richard Nakawatase
Hatsubon for Helen Nakawatase
Amy Takata & Family
Hatsubon
Dale Shirasago *Dana*
Mayumi Kodani *Dana*
Jean Paul deGuzman *Dana*
Kazuo Matsubayashi *Dana*

JUNE FLOWER DONATION

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Jean Minami
Merrie Nishisaka
Julie Akahori
Toshiko Yamaguchi
Amy Yukawa
Nishida Family
Carol Masada
Catherine Hisamune

JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory Of
Julie Akahori
Kathryn Kawaye,
Sue Miyazaki
James & Karen Harada
Nancy Matsumura
Lisa Hashimoto-Elardo
Miwako Hashimoto
John & Deb Hiramoto
Shuichi Kanegawa
Catherine Hisamune
Mother Shizuye Fujita
Jean Minami
Suma Minami
Eugene & Elaine Murakami
S Murakami
Arthur Nakashita
Hiroshi Clark Nakashita
Russell & Lori Nishida
Grandfather Kinai Yamaguchi
Debra Nishida &
Neil Hurley
Grandfather Kinai Yamaguchi
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Isayo Nishida
Merrie Nishisaka
Yukimasa Sanada
Jennifer Rogers
Shotsuki Hoyo
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Mika Sato, Hisayo Taniguchi & Kiyoshi Taniguchi
Yo Takeyama
Ray Takeyama

Toshiko Yamaguchi
Kinai Yamaguchi
Amy Yukawa
Father Ben Sugita

JULY DONATION

Kazuo & Ikuko Matsubayashi
Nokotsudo
Suzanne Toji
Nokotsudo
Saishin Dojo *Orei*
Saishin Dojo *Orei Utilities*
Gayle Moriyama
Funeral for Clifford Moriyama
Duane & Joy Hirayama
In memory of Hisa Yoshimura
Duane & Joy Hirayama
In memory of Koima Saneto
Duane & Joy Hirayama
In memory of Motoko Saneto
Senshin Jr. YBA
Mochitsuki
Eugene & Elaine Murakami
Dana
Dennis & Celia Huey *Dana*
Rev. Kawawata, Higashi
Hongwanji *Dana*
Betty & Tak Yamashita
70th Wedding Anniversary
Minako Matsuoka *Hatsubon*
Melissa Meza
Saishin Dojo
Kenneth Hatai *Dana*
Dale Shirasago *Dana*
Grace Uyeshima
In memory of Nobi Tanaka from the Tanaka Family.
Mayumi Kodani *Dana*
Lorraine Matsuyama
Okaiishi-Raffle
Johnny & Wendy Mori
Hoonko

JULY FLOWER DONATION

Dana & Ann Saneto
Kazuo & Ikuko Mtsubayashi
Satoshi Miyata
John & Debbie Hiramoto

Paula Shirasago
Arlene Yokoyama
Jean Minami
Marilyn Shimabukuro
Glenn & Harumi Kawaguchi
Julie Akahori
Chikako Kojima
Toshiko Yamaguchi

JULY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory Of
Miki Fujimoto
Ben Takemoto
Lisa M. Hashimoto-Elardo
H. Hashimoto,
K. Nishimura
Dorothy & Bert Higa
Masao Kuwaki
Karen Ishizuka
Kirk Ishizuka
Glenn & Kristine Kawaguchi
Koima Saneto
Chikako Kojima
Noreen Kojima Natalia
Kojima, Bonnie Kojima,
Yoko Uneda
Richard Kok
Mother Siew Yoke Toh
Kazuo & Ikuko
Matsubayashi
Atsuko Matsubayashi
Joy Middo
James Segawa
Jean Minami
Itsuto Yokomi
Satoshi Miyata
Sue Miyata
John & Wendy Mori
Mother Chiyo Sahara
Eugene & Elaine Murakami
Kazuo Murakami
Lance Nagano
Julia T. Nagano
Wendy & Nick Nagatani
Susan Fujimoto
Ann & Dana Saneto
Koima Saneto
Satomi Saneto
Koima Saneto
Keith Shimabukuro
Doris Shigaki

Paula Shirasago
Sue Mae Satsuki Shimada
Iris & Wilbur Takashima
Minoru Yasuda
Steve & Shelley Takeyama
Ray Takeyama
Yo Takeyama
Ray Takeyama
Betty Yamashita
Nancy Takahashi
Arlene Yokoyama
Thelma Yamada *Sister*
Ellen Yamada

OBON/KANGIE 2026

Anonymous
Anonymous
Alta Properties
Julie Akahori
Don & Lynn Akamine
Jane Asahi
Susan Asamura
Donna Ebata
James & Karen Harada
Sumiko Hayamizu
Bert & Dorothy Higa
Deb & John Hiramoto
Paul Hiramoto
Duane & Joy Hirayama
Jane Hirayama
Catherine Hisamune
Patti Honkawa
Edna Horiuchi
Janice & Victor Huey
Kenny & Joji Iriye
Denise Ishitani
Janis Ishitani
Glen & Joyce Isomoto
Cathy Iyemura
Karen Kimura Joo
Emi Kamikawa
Judy & David Kanagawa
Ruby Kiyohara
Chikako Kojima
Richard Kok
Yasuko Kujiraoka
Doug Matsuda
Gail & Mitchell Matsumura
Jean Minami

Lillie Miyagishima
Marilyn & Dennis Miyamoto
Garren & Stephanie Mizutani
John & Wendy Mori
Julia Murakami
Ana Maria Herrera Murray
Deb Nakatomi &
Bob Miyamoto
Richard Nakawatase
Russell & Lori Nishida
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Merrie Nishisaka
Hideko Nakamura Noriyuki
Craig & Cindy Ogawa
Ron & Fujie Ohata
Thomas Okabe
Shelley Okamura
Michael & Carol Okuda
Susan Omori
Yasuhiro Osako
Michiko & Richard Sakakura
Marilyn Shimabukuro &
Gilbert Leong
Ellen Shimohara
Dale & Susan Shirasago
Mark & Reiko Sondag
Kiyoe Suzuki
Y. Elaine Takahashi &
Gedun Phuntshog
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Joyce Tomita
Mika Toyoura
Rev Tetsuo Unno
Yuki Ushirogata
Nancy Usui
Joyce Wakano Chinn
Bernice Wakinaka
Lisa Warshal
Betty & Tak Yamashita
Toshiko Yamaguchi
Michael & Lily Yanagita
Arlene Yokoyama
Robyn Yoneda
Amy Yukawa

2026 Obon Raffle Fundraiser Thank you!

Our gratitude to everyone for your generous support of our 2026 Obon Raffle fundraiser. Through your raffle donations we are able to continue funding important religious programs at Senshin. Additional thanks to the following business friends and individuals who generously donated many amazing prizes, cash and in-kind items.

Akahori, Julie
Akamine, Don & Lynn
Anonymous (2)
Ebata, Donna
Harada, James & Karen
Hatai, Ken
Hiramoto, John
Horiuchi, Edna
Huey, Denny & Celia
Ishitani, Janis
Isomoto, Glen & Joyce
Kodani, Reverend Mas
Kojima, Chikako
Komai, JoAnn & Neil
Matsubara, Tammy & Dale
Matsuyama, Laraine
Minami, Jean
Miyamoto, Bob
Nagano, Lance
Nagatani, Nick
Nakagawa, Phyllis
Nishida, Deb & Neil Hurley
Nishida, Russell & Lori
Nishikawa, Kelvin
Nishisaka, Merrie
Ogawa, Craig
Ogawa, Susan
Ohata, Fujie & Ron
Okamura Family
Okuda, Michael & Carol
Senshin ABA

Continued page 8

2026 Obon Raffle Fundraiser. Thank you!

Continued from page 7

Senshin BWA	Uyemura,
Shimabukuro, Marilyn	Koichi & Linda
& Gilbert Leong	Watanabe,
Shirasago,	Dennis & Wendy
Dale & Susan	Yamaguchi, Toshiko
Shirasago, Paula	Yamashita, Qris &
Sunday, Reiko & Mark	Chris Komai
Stephenson, Leala	Yanagita,
Toji, Suzanne	Michael & Lily
<i>Feast from the East</i>	Yee, Greg
Umemoto,	Yokoyama, Arlene
Kathie & Marty	



凡夫の心 *Continued from page 3*

きによって、私たちがエゴのない人間になるわけではない、ということです。むしろ、自分のエゴが照らし出され、自分自身の姿をより正直に見ることができるようになります。そして、私たちの人生に安らぎと進むべき方向を与え、他の人のことも考えるように、促してください。

自分の身勝手さに気づかされたとき、私たちは「南無阿弥陀仏」と称えます。これは、「私はエゴを克服しました」という意味ではありません。「私の本当の姿を知らせてくださり、ありがとうございます。私の関心が、いとも簡単に自分自身へ戻ってしまうことを申し訳なく思います」というような感謝と反省の応答です。

自分が凡夫であることを受け入れるとは、自分を恥じたり、他の人より劣っていると感じたりするためではありません。謙虚に生き、お互いを尊重するようになるのです。この自覚が私たちの心に安らぎをもたらし、他の人々と調和して生きることを助けてくれます。

今回の事故は、自分の内にある凡夫の心を、あらためて知られることとなり、ありがたいご縁となりました。

南無阿弥陀仏

The Kikuo and Kaoru (Kay) Ogawa 2026 Memorial Scholarships

The purpose of these scholarships is to honor the late Kikuo and Kaoru (Kay) Ogawa, and to recognize the efforts of a graduating high school senior and/or a person pursuing a change in direction in life via continuing education. This could be through a college, university, trade or technical school. Those with the desire to further their education will be considered for these scholarships. **Scholarship Award:** A one-time scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded to each of two individuals. One award will go to a high school graduating senior; the other will go to an individual who is engaged in continuing education, whether on the college level, trade/technical school or change of career studies. If a qualified candidate is not found in each category, the awards will go to the two outstanding candidates, regardless of category.

Requirements:

1. Must have graduated high school or passed the GED (General Educational Development) test by June of the application year or earlier.
2. Applicant must be accepted by or enrolled in a college, university, trade school or technical school, or must show intention of attending one of those institutions.
3. Must obtain and complete the application as stated below.
4. Scholarship funds must be applied towards tuition, fees, books and other educational expenses as deemed appropriate by the scholarship benefactors.
5. Must be the member of, or affiliated with Senshin Buddhist Temple. For high school graduates, their parent(s) must be a member(s) of Senshin Buddhist Temple.

Application: An application may be obtained via email by contacting Wilbur Takashima at: wktakashi@aol.com. The application will require a two-page essay and two separate recommendations. Details are provided in the application package, which will be sent via email upon request.

The application (including both recommendations) **MUST** be received by October 11, 2026. The scholarships will be presented at the Shotsuki Hoyo service on November 1, 2026. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 2026 scholarships were delayed this year.

Donation College Savings 529 Plan

Senshin has a College Savings 529 Plan to help with the costs of higher education for our minister's family.

Contributing to this fund will provide tax-free income for the minister's children when they are college age. In eight years at 7%, monies put in today could almost double by the time they are ready to go to college.

If you would like to contribute, you have two options:

1. Write a check out to Senshin Buddhist Temple along with a memo or note indicating you would like to contribute to the 529 account.
2. You can write a check out to MESP (Michigan Education Savings Program) and mail it directly to PO Box 55925, Boston, MA 02205-5925. Be sure to send a note indicating the contribution is to go to the Senshin Buddhist Temple, Account #9393725.

If you write a check to Senshin, there is no minimum. If you write a check to MESP, the check must be \$25 or more.

Owned by the temple, the intention of the fund is to provide additional support to its minister and family.

Girls Just Want To Have Fun...Too!!

The Anomas and the Golden Chain

Memories from Kathy Ikari, Joy Middo, and Stephanie

The word **Anoma** is a Sanskrit word that means excellent, peerless, noble. The Anoma River is where Prince Siddhartha renounced his life as a noble and began his search for enlightenment.

At Senshin Buddhist Temple, the **Anomas** was a social group for middle school aged girls, grades 7th-9th. The group began in the early 1960's and lasted through the 70's.



It was mentioned a number of times that the **Anomas** was likely formed to provide Senshin girls an opportunity to gather, socialize, and develop friendships, at a time when the boys at Senshin had very active Boy Scout troops.

Most of the girls remember their time in the **Anoma's** fondly as an opportunity to gather, develop strong friendships, and of course eat together. In the early years, the group was

led by Senshin *Nisei* moms, like Mrs. Chiyo Takemoto, Mrs. Misao Matsuda, and Mrs. Ruth Tsuboi. The **Anoma's** met at the Takemoto house and later at the Matsuda house, probably because Senshin's Hondo and classrooms were mainly limited to the confines of the current Social Hall. Thank you to all of the awesome *Nisei* Senshin Moms! Many former **Anoma** members are still regular loyal Senshin members today.

The **Golden Chain** was for elementary to middle school age girls at Senshin. The girls then moved on to the **Anomas**, and then on to Jr. YBA.

I remember the fun activities we did: bicycle outing at the beach, *Hinamatsuri*, Day of the *Gaki*, and a slumber party at the Nakawatase's house in Topanga Canyon. Our mothers made our *Obon* pink vests to wear over our *yukatas*, and the girls decorated our hats with pink tissue paper.

There were a lot of girls at the time of **Golden Chain**. When we graduated to **Anomas** it was a smaller group. I think after we entered into Jr YBA, **Anomas** became Sangha Teens because that was our younger siblings age group like Harumi, Dana, Ken Oyama, Gen Unno, Julie Akahori, etc.

As **Anomas**, we went to see the Broadway play "*The Chorus Line*", participated in *Obon* and some of us played in the first Kids Taiko group. We had installation dinners at Rudi's on Crenshaw, where Rev Mas gave us a dharma talk, and where the ravioli was so good.



Disco was in, so the Hustle was a popular dance that we learned from the Pasadena Buddhist Temple Sangha Teens advisor. Pasadena Sangha Teens invited our **Anomas** group to join in on dance lessons in their gym followed by actual dances. I think other chapters were invited too.

In our last year in **Anomas**, we held a dance in the social hall at Senshin in July 1978. All

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.



singing *Nightbird* by Kalapana! Of course, we can't forget the amazing disco mirror ball that Joy and her dad (Bill Oyama) made for our dance! I wish we had a photo of that and our Grooveline sign! I remember us painting the sign in the social hall.

Kathy Ikari *I have to say my fondest memory was the camaraderie and connecting with our adult leaders as well as fellow Sunday School students in a fairly relaxed and comfortable manner, that ties me to Senshin and which might not have otherwise occurred. I also realize it was a very long time ago.*

Joy Middo *My most memorable impression was that we formed our sisterhood in the Anomas. Most of us didn't have blood sisters except for Steph. Till this day we are tight and I treasure that friendship immensely.*

Stephanie Higa *I feel the same... truly cherish our special friendship/sisterhood that really started during those teenage years in Anomas. Hard to believe it's almost 5 decades ago!!!*

Updates

& ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the Board

It was Obon week in Japan while we were there on vacation, and it was interesting to see how many people were traveling throughout the country to return home and spend time with their families and communities. You could really feel that Obon was a special time for people to come together, reflect, and remember those who came before them.

Seeing this firsthand made me think about how Obon connects us, no matter where we are. Whether in Japan, here at our Temple, or simply at home with family, I hope everyone was able to take some time during the Obon season to reflect on the people who have touched our lives and to appreciate the family, friends, and community we have around us.

As we move into September and the beginning of fall, I hope we can carry that same spirit of gratitude and connection with us through the rest of the year.

In Gassho,
STAN FUKAWA

BWA

The first half of the year before the “harvest break” ended on a busy note for the BWA. June was the Southern District Buddhist Conference held at Senshin and the BWA supported the conference by providing the spread for the morning break and the desserts for lunch. A couple of weeks later was the Senshin Obon. A wonderful summer gathering to remember our ancestors, those that have recently passed away,

and of course to just dance (*yuiyo*). But also not to be missed, were the BWA spam musubi! Thank you to all of the volunteers that came out to make the 180 rolls/360 pieces and extra musubi. All were sold out by intermission! A couple of weeks after Obon, the BWA prepared *chirashi* for *otoki* after the *Kangi-e* service. Thank you to all of the volunteers that came out on Saturday and Sunday to prepare and plate 134 servings and deliver 17 boxes to homebound members.

Preparations for the Eshinni, Ka-



kushinni, Lady Kujo and BWA Memorial service and luncheon on October 11th, are underway. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you to the following for your generous donations:

- JoAnn Komai *Special thank you*
- Amy Yukawa *Obon/chirashi donation*
- Betty Yamashita *70th wedding anniversary*.

ABA

Congratulations to our working ABA members for the selling out of our 500 char siu bao's (by the halftime break) at our obon booth back on June 27th. Another enjoyable and successful Obon accomplished by our whole Sangha, and a noticeably smaller volume of dancers due to the sharing of this weekend with both San Fernando Valley and West Covina temples.

For our July “ABA Eats” luncheon, we all met at “The Oinkster” in Eagle Rock for delicious BBQ cuisine and retro-looking surroundings. Thanks to Edna for suggesting this great choice to spend time together!

Jr YBA

The Junior YBA hosted the Southern District YBA Conference at Nishi Hongwanji, where juniors from across the district came together for a weekend of learning, friendship, and fun. Participants enjoyed a variety of icebreakers and activities that helped everyone connect, as well as a lively dance and a delicious dinner. Throughout the conference, juniors strengthened their friendships, created lasting memories, and deepened their understanding of the dharma, making the event a meaningful and memorable experience for everyone involved.

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

Wasabi Kai

The August Harvest break provided time to re-group after Saishin Dojo -- maintenance for the kiln, kiln shelves to be cleaned and an opportunity to tidy up the studio. We maintained our

regular open studio hours Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have a great core group who are continuing their exploration in clay. The display in the library is representative of their work.

Our group took a field trip to the American Museum of Ceramic Art to

see Toge: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics. “This will be the first exhibition in half a century

of modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics in eastern Los Angeles County, providing a rare chance for many to see the range of this unique facet within modern and contemporary ceramic art.”

Pictures will be in the October *Prajna*.

Remember the open studio Tuesdays/Thursdays welcomes any temple member who has previously taken a class. Will post new class dates as they become available.



July “ABA Eats” luncheon at “The Oinkster”

Senshin Temple Flower Toban Team

The weekly arrangement of the altar flowers are completed on a regular, rotating basis by Sangha teams of volunteers using the “toban” system. This system is a traditional Japanese practice of sharing responsibilities like arranging altar flowers, and cleaning the nokotsudo and hondo on a rotating basis. It is a practice widely used by temples, schools and community centers to encourage teamwork and shared ownership over the facilities. With the Senshin 75th Anniversary campuswide renovations coming to a close, it is very important to continue the sustainability of the Senshin Temple flower toban system.

The arrangement of altar flowers started when the temple hondo was newly built in 1965. You may notice that the Prajna newsletter's monthly calendar of activities lists the names of the weekly flower toban team(s).

The flower toban teams are looking for additional Sangha members to join the community of Sangha members in refreshing the altar flowers and the nokotsudo altar on a weekly basis. Nokotsudo family members are also encouraged to volunteer on a flower toban team.

The refresh and arrangement of altar flowers is completed on a weekly basis either Friday or Saturday morning (usually 90 minutes in length) by one or two people on a rotating basis. While flower arrangement may be viewed as primarily a “female” activity, both male and female helpers participate. Typically, a rotation of duties or toban comes up once or twice a year. An annual training session is conducted at the beginning of the year by Rev. Mas. Hands-on training or mentoring can be arranged for any new volunteers wishing to participate. One can even be matched with an experienced person to gain more experience and confidence.



Currently the flower toban coordinator is Iris Takashima. She has served as coordinator for many years. She has asked to end her tenure and therefore the Temple is currently looking for someone to take over as coordinator beginning in 2027. We are truly grateful for her years of tireless service as flower toban coordinator.

If you are interested in participating on the altar flower toban teams, please send an e-mail to senshintemple@gmail.com. In the e-mail subject line, please note Flower Toban Team Volunteers. The temple is deeply appreciative and grateful for your willingness to help. Current flower toban volunteers may approach you to ask for your assistance.



BACHI BABIES



KANGI-E 2026

OBON 2026

Seating
80yrs
and above



SENSHIN-JI 2026 SEPTEMBER 2569

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDN	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:30a-2p Wasabi Kai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		10a-12p Tri-Temple Seminar (by Ministers from Tsukiji Hongwanji) Gagaku Workshop at Senshin. Gagaku practice of <i>Bairo</i> ; Lecture on how to organize a Chigo Procession
6 No Service - Labor Day	7	8	9	10	11	12
1:00-3:30p SDBEC Special Seminar with Ministers from Tsukiji Hongwanji. At Nishi Betsuin - Joint Gagaku Concert - Presentation by Tsukiji Hongwanji Ministers - Presentation by Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara.		10:30a-2p Wasabi Kai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p (Zoom) SBG: Chant-ing, Ritual & Buddhist etiquette in Jodo Shinshu, Learning from Senshin Service Book	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30a Temple Board Meeting 9:45a Japanese Howa 10a Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hōyō) & Service Following service Meetings: ABA, Jr. YBA, Sangha teens Following service Bachi Babies Toddler Taiko		10:30a-2p Wasabi Kai Open Studio 7p BWA Reikai (Zoom)	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p (Zoom) SBG: Chant-ing, Ritual & Buddhist etiquette...	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10a Family Service Rev. Mas Kodani		10:30a-2p Wasabi Kai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p (Zoom) SBG: Chant-ing, Ritual & Buddhist etiquette...	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
27 Ohigan	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
9:45a Japanese Howa 10a Fall Ohigan Service Following service Fall Ohigan Seminar/Entertainment Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Rimban of Sacramento Betsuin. "Take Refuge in Amida, the Music of Purity." Rev. Sugahara will perform songs with his bass guitar and share the Jodo Shinshu teaching of the Nembutsu through music. 12noon Otoki by ABA		10:30a-2p Wasabi Kai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
SEPTEMBER SERVICE Toban: A B A Monthly Toban group responsibilities Weekly Chair Sunday Service (Jr. YBA will chair service the 2nd Sunday each month) Sept. 13 Provide/serve snacks and beverages for Temple Board Meeting; Provide donuts/beverages following monthly memorial service			SEPTEMBER Hondo Toban Don Akamine Michelle Akamine Erin Akamine Miki Fujimoto	SEPTEMBER ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement 5 Yoko/Kelvin Nishikawa 12 Denise/Richard Kodani 19 Sheri Lovall 26 Robert Hori/Richard Kok Oct. 3 Qris Yamashita	OCTOBER Upcoming Events <i>*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</i> 11 Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko, Takeko Kujo-sama/BWA Memorial 24 Nokotsudo Osoji 25 Day of the Gaki	