No Souvenirs Needed



As Thanksgiving and the holiday season approach, many of us look forward to welcoming family members home.

When I was a college student, I heard a Dharma message that I still remember today. It was about parents and their children coming home. For parents, one of the greatest joys is simply seeing their children return home safely. They do not need gifts or souvenirs. Just seeing their children's faces and knowing they are doing well is enough to make them happy.

But children may think differently. They may feel they should bring gifts or good news, such as good grades, awards, or promotions at work. They may

think they need to accomplish something special to make their parents happy.

This simple story is often used to explain Amida Buddha's Primal Vow and the difference between Self-Power and Other Power in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Amida Buddha embraces us, ordinary foolish beings, just as we are, and wishes to bring us to birth in the Pure Land, where we attain Buddhahood.

However, we often think we must do something special to be accepted by Amida Buddha. We may think, "Shouldn't I always be kind to others, follow the precepts, or meditate for many hours? Don't I have to recite the Nembutsu thousands of times with deep concentration and sincerity?"

Of course, being kind to others and practicing meditation are good and meaningful activities. But we do not need to offer them to Amida Buddha as gifts in order to be born in the Pure Land. Trying to attain birth in the Pure Land through our own efforts and good deeds is called Self Power, or *Jiriki*.

In *Notes on Once-Calling and Many-Calling*, Shinran Shonin explained Self-Power: *"Self-Power" characterizes those who have full confidence in themselves, trusting in their own hearts and minds, striving with their own powers, and relying on their own various roots of good*. (CWS, p. 484)

At first glance, Self-Power may seem like a good thing. We should practice Buddhism, follow the Golden Chain, be kind to others, and try to become better people. However, Shinran Shonin reminds us that we are deluded beings, deeply attached to "self." Even when we do good things, we may think, "I am a good person. I am doing the right thing. I am better than others."

Those efforts may actually strengthen our ego rather than free us from it. Shinran Shonin teaches that we cannot attain Nirvana through our own Self-Power, which is rooted in our self-centered mind.

Therefore, Amida Buddha does not ask us to bring such *Jiriki* gifts. Instead, we are guided by Amida Buddha's Other Power, or *Tariki*.

Through the working of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow, we entrust ourselves to the Vow and say the Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*. This Nembutsu is not something we offer to earn our birth in the Pure Land. It is the working of Amida Buddha's compassion and our expression of gratitude.

Now, let us return to the story of parents and children.

When children come home, they say, "I'm home! *Tadaima*!" Their parents respond, "Welcome home! *Okaeri*!" Parents wish for their children to be happy and well. When their children return home safely and say "*Tadaima*!" their parents' wish is fulfilled. At the the same time, "*Tadaima!*" can be an expression of gratitude from the children..

The Nembutsu is something like this. When we say *Namo Amida Butsu*, it is a sign that Amida Buddha's Vow is work ing in our lives. Just as parents rejoice when their children come home, we can understand the Nembutsu as fulfilling Amida Buddha's wish and bringing joy to the Buddha. At the same time, it expresses our gratitude for Amida Buddha's boundless compassion.

No Self-Power souvenirs are needed. I remembered this Dharma message one day when I was returning home from college. I thought, "Parents are happy just to see their children. They don't need souvenirs. Seeing my face is the greatest gift!"

So I went home without buying anything. When I arrived, my mother looked at me and asked, "Where's my souvenir?" She said, "You were in Kyoto! You could have brought me some delicious Japanese sweets or *tsukemono*!"

I thought, "Wait a minute. That's not what I learned from the Dharma message!" I realized that Amida Buddha and human parents are sometimes a little different! Of course, my mother was happy to see me. But she also wanted some souvenirs!

Perhaps that is how we human beings are. We may say, "I don't need anything," but deep down, we still expect something. That is the nature of Bonbu, ordinary foolish beings like us.

But Amida Buddha is different. We are not embraced because of our good deeds, accomplishments, or special gifts. Even when we think we must bring something to be accepted, we are already embraced by Amida Buddha's boundless compassion.

This Thanksgiving, if your children or grandchildren come home without gifts, remember this Dharma message. Try to think, "I'm just happy you're home!" But you may end up thinking, "Well, that's Amida Buddha. I'm your mother, and I still want my souvenir!" That's who we are. We are *Bonbu*, who are embraced by Amida Buddha's compassion.

NAMO AMIDABUTSU

阿弥陀さまへのお土産

私が大学生の頃に聞いて、今でも覚えている法話があります。

それは、親というものは、子供が家に帰ってきてくれるだけでうれしい。お土産なんかいらない。ただ帰ってきて、元気な顔を見せてくれるだけで十分うれしい、というお話です。

たとえば、子供が大学や仕事のために口サンゼルスを離れて、遠くで暮しているとしましょう。Thanksgivingやクリスマス、お正月になると、久しぶりに家に帰ってきます。

親にとっては、それが楽しみです。子供が元気に帰ってきて、顔を見せてくれる。それが何よりもうれしい。何か特別なお土産を持ってくる必要はありません。でも、子供のほうは、そうは思わないことがあります。

久しぶりに帰るのだから、お土産を持っていかなければならない。あるいは、学校で良い成績を取ったとか、賞をもらったとか、仕事で昇進したとか、何か良い報告をしないと、親が喜んでくれないのではないかと思うのです。

でも、親にとって一番うれしいのは、子供が元気に帰ってきてくれることです。何か良いものを持ってきたからうれしいのではなく、子供が帰ってくること自体が喜びなのです。これは、阿弥陀さまの本願を説明するために、よく使われるたとえです。

阿弥陀仏は、私たち凡夫を、そのまま受け入れ、浄土に生まれさせて仏にしようと願われています。私たちが浄土に生まれるために、何か立派なお土産を用意する必要はありません。しかし、私たちは、やはり何かしなければならないのではないかと思ってしまいます。良いことをたくさんしないといけないのではないか。ボランティアをしたり、食事制限をしたり、何時間もメディテーションをしたり、あるいは念仏を何千回も、真剣に称えなければならないのではないか。そうしなければ、阿弥陀仏に認めてもらえない、浄土に生まれることができないのではないか、と思うのです。

もちろん、ボランティアをしたり、人に親切にしたり、物事に集中をしたりすることは、大切なことです。しかし、それらを浄土に生まれるためのお土産にする必要はないのです。

自分の努力や善い行いを頼りにして、浄土に生まれようとする。それを「自力」と言います。阿弥陀さまは、「私の名を称えるものを、必ず浄土に生まれさせよう」と願われ、その本願のはたらきが私たちに届き、今、私たちの口から南無阿弥陀仏というお念仏が出ているのです。このお念仏は、阿弥陀さまの本願におまかせする私たちの姿であり、同時に、感謝の表れでもあります。これが「他力」の教えです。

ここで、先ほどの親子の話をもう一度考えてみましょう。親にとって、子供が家に帰ってきて、「ただいま」と言ってくれることは、何よりの喜びです。そして、子供にとっても、家に帰って「ただいま」と言うことは、親への感謝の表れになるのではないでしょうか。これと同じように、私たちがお念仏を称えることは、阿弥陀仏の願いにかなうことなのです。念仏を称える私たちの姿は、阿弥陀仏の本願が私たちの上にはたらいている姿であり、それは仏の喜びとして味わうことができます。そして、南無阿弥陀仏と称えるお念仏は、その阿弥陀仏の慈悲をいただいた私たちの感謝の表れでもあるのです。

つまり、阿弥陀仏に喜んでいただくために、何か特別なものを用意する必要はありません。阿弥陀仏の本願におまかせし、南無阿弥陀仏とお念仏する。それが他力におまかせするということで、自力のお土産はいらない、ということなのです。

私は学生の頃、そのような法話を何度か聞きました。

そして、ある時、大学から実家に規制することになりました。その時、私は、この法話を思い出しました。「親というものは、子供が帰ってくるだけでうれしい。お土産なんかいらない。元気な顔を見せてあげることが、一番のお土産なのだ。」そう思って、何も買わずに家に帰りました。すると、母が私に言いました。「土産ないんか？京都のおいしいお菓子とか、漬け物とか、買ってきてくれたらええのに。」私は、「あれ、お説教で聞いた話と違うな」と思いました。やはり、阿弥陀さまと人間の親は違うようです。もちろん、母はお土産がなかったからといって、私を家に入れてくれなかったわけではありません。子供が帰ってくるのはうれしい。でも、お土産も欲しい。

それが、私たち人間なのかもしれません。私たちは、何もいらないと言いながら、やはり何かを期待してしまいます。そのような心を持っているのが、私たち凡夫なのです。しかし、阿弥陀仏は違います。私たちが立派な人間になったから、たくさん良いことをしたから、あるいは何かお土産を持ってきたから、救ってくださるのではありません。お土産を持っていかなければならないと思ってしまう、そのような凡夫の私を、阿弥陀仏はすでに願いの中に受け入れてくださっているのです。

もうすぐThanksgivingです。皆さんの中にも、子供や孫、家族が家に帰ってくるのを楽しみにしている方がいらっしゃるでしょう。もし、お土産を持ってこなくても、「元気に帰ってきてくれただけでうれしい」と思ってあげてください。

お念仏を喜び、感謝のうちに称えさせていただきましょう。

南無阿弥陀仏

Monthly Memorial NOVEMBER 2026

Shotsuki Service Sunday, November 1 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)
Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Akahori, Julie
Uncle Akahori, Bob

Akahori, Julie
Family Friends
Imai, Harry and Ida

Fukawa Family
Friend Takamine, Michiko

Higa, Dorothy
Mother
Kuwaki, Martha Masako

Higa, Stephanie
Mother Takamoto, Sachi

Imamura Family
Mother Imamura, Kikuye

Imamura Family
Uncle Yoshimura, Toshiyuki

Isomoto, Glen
Mother Isomoto, Satoko

Kojima, Chikako
Grandmother Uneda,Yoshiko

Koyanagi, Katherine
Father Koyanagi, Kenji

Kuwata, Tom
Grandmother Yamada, Tosao

Matsubara, Tammy
Father Kiyohara, Akira

Matsumura, Henry
Grandmother
Matsumura, Satomi

Minami, Jean
Mother Yokomi, Misako

Minami, Jean
Brother Yokomi,Tadashi Ted

Murakami, Eugene
Mother Murakami, Yomiko

Nakagawa, Fred
Mother Nakagawa, Kiyo

Nakawatase, Richard
Father Nakawatase, Hideyoshi

Nakawatase, Richard
Mother Nakawatase, Sachiko

Nakawatase Family
Grandfather
Nakawatase, Anzaemon

Nishisaka, Merrie
Nishisaka, Scott
Father Nishisaka, Arthur

Okazaki, James
Friend Chan, Donald

Otamura, Katherine
Husband Otamura, Roy

Oyama and Middo Families
Father Oyama, Bill

Sato Family
Father Sato, Gene

Shimohara, Ellen
Husband Shimohara, Jerry

Shimohara, Ellen
Mother-in-law
Shimohara, Chiyoko

Sonday, Reiko
Father Nimi, Shinichi

Takashima, Iris
Uncle Yasuda, Shig

Toji, Dean/Toji, Suzanne
Mother/Mother-in-law
Toji, Evelyn

Ushirogata, Yukie
Father-in-law
Ushirogata, Kiichi

Ushirogata, Yukie
Brother Matsushita, Hiroshi

Uyeno, Kenneth
Grandfather Uyeno, Yoshisuke

Wakinaka, Bernice
Father-in-law
Wakinaka, Yorinosuke

Wakinaka, Bernice
Mother-in-law Wakinaka, Tane

Wakinaka, Bernice
Father Nagaoka, Tokuzo

Yamaguchi, Toshiko
Husband Yamaguchi, Frank

Yamasaki, Reiko
Husband Yamasaki, George

Yamashita, Betty
Brother Takahashi, Paul

Yokoyama, Arlene
Father Yamada, Harold

Yokoyama, Arlene
Brother Yamada, Richard

Yoshimura, Brett and Susan
Daughter Yoshimura, Deklan

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



Senshin Nembutsu Retreat

February 6 & 7
Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks

Our **2027 Senshin Nembutsu Retreat** will be held February 6 & 7, 2027 at the Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Peter Hata who was invited to return. More information about the theme and registration details will be available shortly. Please contact Neil Komai, Religious Chairman at: nkomai49@gmail.com.

Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG)

Wednesdays, **November 4, 11 & 18**
6:30 - 7:15pm (Zoom)

Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu

Learning from Senshin Service Book

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

If you would like to join the class, please contact the temple. You may also simply join using the same Zoom link that we use for our Sunday services.

Dana

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.

SEPTEMBER DONATION

Janis Ishitani
In memory of Yoshimi Ishitani

Lisa Hashimoto-Elardo
Room *orei*

Hirayama Family
1 year memorial service for Kiyome Hirayama

Jane & Keith Hirayama
1 year memorial service for Kiyome Hirayama

Satomi Saneto
1 year memorial service for Kiyome Hirayama

Bruce Hirayama
1 year memorial service for Kiyome Hirayama

Ann & Dana Saneto
1 year memorial service for Kiyome Hirayama

Glenn & Harumi Kawaguchi
1 year memorial service for Kiyome Hirayama

Brenda Creed
In memory of Jerry Ogawa

Wendy Turloff
In memory of Jerry Ogawa

Harriett Yasuhara
In memory of Jerry Ogawa

Karen Yoshioka
In memory of Jerry Ogawa

Arlene Yokoyama
In memory of Jerry Ogawa

Dorothy Higa
In memory of Jerry Ogawa

Brett & Susan Yoshimura
In memory of Addison Yoshimura

Brett & Susan Yoshimura
In memory of Deklan Yoshimura

Tsukiji Hongwanji
Dana

Chikako Kojima
1 year memorial service for Yoko Uneda

Jean Minami
1 year memorial service for Yoko Uneda

Cathy Iyemura
1 year memorial service for Yoko Uneda

Shelly Okamura
1 year memorial service for Yoko Uneda

Sumiko Hayamizu *Nokotsudo*

James & Karen Harada
Nokotsudo

Yukiko Yamamoto
Funeral Service

Miki Fujimoto
In memory of Bobby Hearns

Jessica Hernandez
Donation for obi

Glen & Joyce Isomoto
Wednesday Study Class

Paul Hiramoto *Nokotsudo*

Shelly Okamura *Nokotsudo*

Shelly Okamura *Use of copier*

Susan Morishita
Funeral Service for Grace Chiyoko Okuda

Patricia Honkawa *Dana*

Bruce Hirayama *Nokotsudo*

Masao Kodani *Dana*

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Miyagawa
Nokotsudo
Rev. Enryo Unno

Cindy Oda
Hoji for Misao Tomita

Kenneth Hatai *Dana*

Kenneth Hatai *Dana*

Dale Shirasago *Dana*

Kenneth Hatai
Senshin Expenses

Richard Nakawatase
In memory of Toku & Tokunobu Nakawatase

SEPTEMBER FLOWER DONATIONS

Sumi Hayamizu

Paula Shirasago

Michiko Sugano

Julie Akahori

Marilyn Shimabukuro

James & Karen Harada

Kathy Ikari & Family

Chikako Kojima

Marty & Kathie Umemoto

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa

Denise & Richard Kodani

Doug Matsuda

Craig & Cindy Ogawa

Ellen Shimohara

Glen & Joyce Isomoto

Yoko & Richard Miyagawa

Dorothy Higa

Toshiko Yamaguchi

SEPTEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory of

Julie Akahori
Tomiko Akahori
Dr. Fred Miyazaki

May Sugano Edgar
Grandmother
Fude Kanazawa

James & Karen Harada
Tom Harada

James & Karen Harada
Dorothy Yoshihata

Sumiko Hayamizu
Robert Hayamizu

Paul Hiramoto
Sumiko Hiramoto

Jane & Keith Hirayama
Koima Saneto

Kathy Ikari
Kei Ikari

James & Patricia Kanda
Mamoru Yoshihata

Richard Kodani
Fred Kodani

Richard Kodani
Shirley Kodani

Chikako Kojima
Tom Kojima

Richard Kok
Father Yoke Chuan Kok

Doug Matsuda
Ishi Akamichi

Doug Matsuda
Father Miyoshi Matsuda

Garren & Stephanie Mizutani
Grandfather
Rev. Enryo Unno

Johnny & Wendy Mori
Tsutaye Mori

Eugene & Elaine Murakami
Raymond Murakami

Julia Murakami
Lena Murakami
Raymond Murakami

Richard Nakawatase
Anna Lew Hosaka

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Eiichi Yoshida

Cindy Oda
Misao Tomita

Craig & Cindy Ogawa
Kikuo Ogawa
Staci Yamano Kent

Robyn Ogawa
Kaz Yoneda
Misao Tomita

Ann & Dana Saneto
James "Uncle Wimpy" Sugita

Ellen Shimohara & Family
Father-in-law
Henry Shimohara

Keith Shimabukuro
Misao Oshiro & Yoshiko Shimabukuro

Marilyn Shimabukuro & Gilbert Leong
Grandmother
Yoshiko Shimabukuro
Aunt Misao Oshiro

Dale & Susan Shirasago
George Shirasago

Dale & Susan Shirasago
Glenn Shirasago

Paula Shirasago
George Shirasago
Glenn Shirasago

Paula Shirasago
Stanley Shimada

Mark & Reiko Sonday
Kiyoko Niimi

Michiko Sugano
Grandmother
Fude Kanazawa

Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Shirley Kodani
Seichi Jinde
Haru Takashima

Kathleen & Marty Umemoto
Father Miyoshi Matsuda

Kathleen & Marty Umemoto
Grandmother
Ishi Akamichi

Warshal Family
Roy Nakawatase

Kiyoko Yoneda
Robyn Ogawa
Kazuo Yoneda

OHIGAN SEPTEMBER 2026

Anonymous

Chris Aihara

Julie Akahori

Don & Lynn Akamine

Roy Asahi

Donna Ebata

James & Karen Harada

Kenneth Hatai

Sumiko Hayamizu

Dorothy Higa

John & Deb Hiramoto

Paul Hiramoto

Jane & Keith Hirayama

Catherine Hisamune

Patti Honkawa

Celia & Dennis Huey

Edna Horiuchi

Kathy Ikari

Joji & Kenny Iriye

Denise Ishitani

Janis Ishitani

Glen & Joyce Isomoto

Cathy Iyemura

Emi Kamikawa

Richard & Denise Kodani

Chikako Kojima

Richard Kok & Robert Hori

June Kondo

Kazuo & Ikuko Matsubayashi

Tammy & Dale Matsubara

Doug Matsuda

Joy Middo

Jean Minami

Lillie Miyagishima

Bob Miyamoto &
Deb Nakatomi

Marilyn & Dennis Miyamoto

Garren & Stephanie Mizutani

John & Wendy Mori

Eugene & Elaine Murakami

Julia Murakami

Richard Nakawatase

Russell & Lori Nishida

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa

Merrie Nishisaka

Sachie Oda

Ronald & Fujie Ohata

Shelly Okamura

Michael & Carol Okuda

Michiko & Richard Sakakura

Marilyn Shimabukuro &
Gilbert Leong

Ellen Shimohara

Mark & Reiko Sonday

Michiko Sugano

Wilbur & Iris Takashima

Ana Maria Herrera Terakawa

Suzanne Toji

Mika Toyoura

Kathie & Marty Umemoto

Yukie Ushirogata

Nancy & Jim Usui

Bernice Wakinaka

Vickie Wakinaka &
Gary Asano

Toshiko Yamaguchi

Betty Yamashita

Qris Yamashita &
Chris Komai

Michael & Lily Yanagita

Greg Yee

Carole Yokota

Arlene Yokoyama

Kiyoko Yoneda

Amy Yukawa

2ND ANNUAL BINGO FUNDRAISER FOR WEEMES

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE WEEMES SCHOOL KIDS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026, 12 PM SENSHIN SOCIAL HALL

10 BINGO GAMES $35, GRAND PRIZE $250 BLACK OUT

OPTIONAL CHICKEN OBENTO $15 BY PREORDER 11/1

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "SENSHIN ABA"

RSVP DEBHIRAMOTO@GMAIL.COM

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.

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.



A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Staying Safe from Scams

Unfortunately, scams targeting older adults are becoming increasingly common. Scammers use phone calls, emails, text messages, and social media to pretend to be banks, government agencies, businesses, or even family members and friends.

Here are a few simple reminders to help protect yourself:

- Pause before responding. Be suspicious of messages that create urgency or ask for money, gift cards, or personal information.
- Verify who you're talking to. If someone claims to be a family member in trouble, contact them directly using a phone number you already know.
- Don't click unfamiliar links. Never share passwords or security codes through email, text, or phone calls.
- Ask for help. If something doesn't seem right, check with a trusted family member or friend before taking action.

Remember, scammers rely on fear and urgency to get you to act quickly. It's always okay to hang up, ignore a suspicious message, and take time to verify whether something is legitimate.

Let's continue looking out for one another and helping to keep our Sangha safe and informed.

CORRECTION: Covid-19 Update and Free Covid Home Test Kit for Los Angeles County Resident

CORRECTION

This is a correction of the article in the October Prajna to have a free Covid home antigen test kit mailed to you. It seems the website has changed its eligibility requirements in spite of the stated requirements: "Age 65 yrs or older OR unable to leave residence." I was notified that one of our members tried the website and answered as "Age 65 yrs or older, and was able to leave residence" but was denied eligibility. I also tried the same attempt and was denied. I contacted the website's support team with the contradiction but have not received a response as of this article's submission. It seems that this website is only for homebound residents.

As a side note: I did revisit the website (https://form.jotform.com/251175071932151) and tried again by answering "Not able to leave my residence" – I was deemed eligible and was notified a few days later that the kit is being mailed to my residence, even though I registered previously as "Able to leave residence."

My apologies for passing along the misinformation.

Submitted by
James Harada
Senshin Safety Committee
(818) 681-3837.

Senshin Jr.YBA FUNDRAISER 2026

SCRIP ORDER FORM

Send to:
Stephanie Higa 1755 Santa Fe Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501, (213)700-1042
Or: drop off in Jr YBA mail slot at Temple OR email to Senshinscripsale@gmail.com
Zelle payment: senshintemplejryba@gmail.com
Delivery of Scrip: PICK UP at Senshin Buddhist Temple. *Please contact us for alternate arrangement.*

Name	Order Date
Address	Phone Number.
	Email Address

Clothing & Accessories				QTY	Total
Home Goods	$25	$100			$
Kohl's	$25	$100			$
Macy's	$25	$100			$
Nordstrom	$25	$100			$
Old Navy	$25				$
TJMaxx/Marshalls	$25	$100			$
Dining - Casual				**QTY**	**Total**
California Pizza Kitchen	$25				$
Chipotle Mexican Grill	$10	$25			$
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf	$25				$
Crumbl	$10	$25			$
Dutch Bros.	$10	$25			$
El Pollo Loco	$25				$
I HOP	$25				$
Islands	$25				$
Jersey Mikes	$25				$
Olive Garden	$25	$100			$
Panda Express	$25				$
Panera Bread	$10	$25			$
Starbucks	$10	$25	$50		$
Subway Restaurants	$10				$
Taco Bell	$5	$10			$
Discount Store & Outlets				**QTY**	**Total**
Sam's Club	$25	$50	$100		$
Target	$25	$50	$100		$
Walmart	$25	$100			$
Electronics & Office				**QTY**	**Total**
Best Buy	$25	$100			$
Staples	$25	$100			$
Entertainment				**QTY**	**Total**
AMC Theatres	$25				$
Barnes & Noble	$10	$25			$
Fandango	$25				$
Regal	$25				$

Gas & Auto				QTY	Total
76 Gas	$25	$100			$
ARCO	$50	$100			$
Chevron CA	$50				$
Jiffy Lube	$30				$
Mobil	$50				$
Shell	$50	$100			$
Grocery				**QTY**	**Total**
Albertsons/Pavillions/Vons	$25	$100			
Smart & Final	$25	$50	$100		$
Sprouts Farmers Market	$25	$50	$100		$
Health & Beauty				**QTY**	**Total**
Bath & Body Works	$10	$25			$
CVS Pharmacy	$25	$100			$
Sephora	$25				$
ULTA	$25				$
Walgreens	$25	$100			$
Home Improvement				**QTY**	**Total**
Ace Hardware	$25	$100			$
Lowe's	$25	$100			$
The Home Depot®	$25	$100			$
Online Shopping				**QTY**	**Total**
Amazon.com	$25	$100			$
Apple Store	$15	$25	$100		$
Door Dash	$25	$100			$
Uber Eats	$25	$100			$
Specialty Retailer				**QTY**	**Total**
Container Store	$25	$100			$
Michaels	$25				$
PetSmart	$25				$
See's Candies	$25				$
Sporting Goods & Outdoors				**QTY**	**Total**
Dick's Sporting Goods	$25	$100			$
Nike	$25				$
REI	$25				$
Universal Prepaid				**QTY**	**Total**
VisaGiftCd No Activation Fee			$50		$
VisaGiftCd No Activation Fee			$100		$

Please see www.RiseRight.com for more businesses with available gift cards. Family Enrollment #C2861D4362L25

Updates & ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the Board

We're not done yet! Although we only have two months left in the year, we still have some great activities coming up at the Temple.

First, our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on November 22, immediately following service, with lunch provided. The entire Sangha is invited to hear updates from the Board and our affiliated organizations, including past accomplishments, current activities, and plans for the future. I hope to see everyone there!

Next, please join us for our ***Bonenkai/Oseibo* Luncheon** on December 6, following service. Everyone is welcome as we gather to celebrate the end of the year and express our gratitude to all those who have contributed their time and energy to support our Temple and Sangha throughout the year.

Finally, ***Mochitsuki*** will be held on December 12! This is always a fun tradition and a wonderful opportunity to come together through teamwork, laughter, and a little hard work. Be sure to mark your calendars!

As we head toward the end of the year, I want to thank everyone for continuing to support our Temple and its activities. I look forward to seeing everyone at these upcoming gatherings as we celebrate another year together.

In Gassho,
STAN FUKAWA

SENSHIN SECURITY

Just a reminder that when you're closing building and gate doors, please double check that the doors are fully closed and locked. Doors can look like they are closed, but when given a slight push, they open or are not locked. Let's take that extra second to make sure our campus is locked and secured. Thank you!

B W A

BWA has had a very full and event-filled 2026, and as we look ahead to the last two months of the year, we'll be contributing desserts for **ABA's Bingo Fundraiser** benefiting Weemes Elementary School on Nov. 8, and then gearing up to join in with the whole Sangha for a packed day of mochi-making fun in December! Thank you to the following for their generous donations:

- Qris Yamashita *Special*
- Ann Ogawa *Special*
- Patti Honkawa *Special*
- Ikuko Matsubayashi *Special*
- Family of Ruby Kiyohara *Thank you for assistance with funeral*
- Amy Yukawa *In memory of* Joe Yukawa
- Marilyn Shimabukuro *In memory of* Fumie Shimabukuro *and* Doris Shigaki
- Shelly Okamura, Suzanne Toji, Amy Yukawa, Arlene Yokoyama, Iris Takashima *Eshinni Kakushinni Memorial and in memory of past BWA members*

A B A

Thanks to Vickie and James for representing ABA at the **Day of the Gaki** event on Oct. 25th, which was a lot of fun to see the kids dressed up and parading.

For the upcoming **Weemes Bingo Fundraiser**, thanks to all our members who will be helping out! Special thanks to Debbie, who organized the event and will be ordering the bentos; BWA for providing some of their many tasty homemade desserts; John for handling the sign-ups for bingo, bento, and donations; Erica and Vickie who will be picking up the bentos; Greg who will be our bingo caller; Edna and Gary who will be manning the check-in table for bingo and bento distribution; and James for gathering the donated prizes. Looks like it will be a day of fun and excitement!! *Okagesa-made!* ABA would like to graciously thank Tammy Matsubara for the *orei* in memory of Ruby Kiyohara.

Jr Y B A

In October, Jr. YBA chaired service and rang the Kansho bell on October 4th. On October 11th, we provided cupcakes to those who have a birthday in the month of October. We also had our monthly meeting to stay on track to another successful year. Our main point of focus during this meeting was on our annual *Mochitsuki*. If you have any questions or are interested in joining Jr. YBA, please contact our parent advisor, Thai Checel, at thaichecel@gmail.com.

Bachi Babies

Thank you all who have participated in and supported Bachi Babies. Please note that our last class for 2026 will be 11/1. Class on 11/8 is cancelled. Thank you!.

WasabiKai

Some members are on a pottery tour in Japan.

"We are having an amazing trip. One special experience after another, meeting artists, seeing great work. Even our meals have been great."





WASABIKAI in JAPAN





BACHI BABIES

ESHINNI KAKUSHINNI MEMORIAL with REV MAYUKI NAGAMINE







OHIGAN with REV YUKI SUGAHARA





USC PARKING FUNDRAISER





OSOJI

Kinnara Taiko & Kinnara Gagaku: Celestial Musicians Seinan-Style

In celebration of Senshin's 75th Anniversary a special service and reception was held on May 24 and included performances by Kinnara Taiko and Kinnara Gagaku. Since 1969 Kinnara has been an integral part of our Senshin services and temple activities. Through the years new members have been added into the groups, but especially significant this year was the participation of many young people. Dharma School students performed with the *Shishi Mai* or Lion Dance. Encouraged by Furumoto-sensei, Jr.YBA members picked up the *ryuteki, koto, fue*, and other instruments featured in *gagaku*, the ancient court music dating back to 6th century Japan. Three Jr.YBA members tackled learning a section of *Engiraku*, an ancient *bugaku* dance.











"Playing *gagaku* made me appreciate the music more," said Jr.YBA member Goh Furumoto. "I tried the *ryuteki*, and at first it was hard to get the melody and rhythm. There's not a set rhythm, you really have to listen and be part of the ensemble. It was challenging, but I really liked it."

About *bugaku*, Ella Camara said, "It was really difficult. The steps felt both erratic and repetitive at the same time and I had a hard time keeping up. However, the experience allowed me to expand my knowledge of music and dance that is not Eurocentric and that contains roots in my own culture."

Annie Camara added, "It was special, the dance and music were very different than anything I had been exposed to before."

Nearly 60 years ago, Kinnara was started at a time when many Japanese Americans, especially young *Sansei* and *Nisei*, were grappling with issues of identity, how to define oneself as a Japanese American in a predominantly White Christian environment. There was interest in looking at traditional Japanese and Japanese Buddhist culture to express their own experiences. In 1968, fresh from Japan, Rev. Mas Kodani arrived at Senshin. He was struck by how much the Buddhist services at our temples mirrored the format of the Christian church, including things like a processional and invocation. And there was limited chanting in the service. Rev. Mas and his *sempai*, Rev. Art Takemoto, started Kinnara with the intention of reestablishing more Japanese rituals into temple activities and exploring the development of Japanese American cultural forms. Initial activities of Kinnara focused on chanting and 'sitting.' At an early Senshin retreat, Sasaki Roshi of the Rinzai Zen sect conducted sessions in sitting meditation.

In 1969 Rev. Mas learned that Suenobu Togi, a *gagaku* musician of the Japanese Imperial Court was teaching classes at UCLA. A group of people from Senshin – Rev. Mas, Aki Kiyohara, Ruby Kiyohara, and Ronnie Matsuda, among others – joined Togi-sensei's classes at UCLA on Friday evenings. Encouraged by Senshin members' earnestness and enthusiasm, Togi-sensei eventually taught classes at Senshin.

Longtime Kinnara member Donna Ebata reflected on her *gagaku* experiences, "I don't remember my first impression of *gagaku*, except it probably hurt my ears. Over the years I've come to appreciate the opportunity Rev. Mas and Togi-sensei gave us to be part of keeping alive the oldest form of continuously played orchestral music in the world!"

Kinnara Taiko also started during this period. It has been said that after the Senshin Obon some folks, including George Abe and Rev. Mas, started banging on the taiko and so thoroughly enjoyed the experience that they decided to form a taiko group. Their first drums were made from oak wine barrels as purchasing drums was just too expensive. The dynamic taiko captured the interest of many, especially when the group began performing at other temple Obons and community events.

JoAnn Komai recalled, "I have a very clear recollection of going to WLA's Obon and seeing Kinnara, more specifically Qris Yamashita play. I didn't know who she was at the time, but after seeing her perform, I told myself, 'I want to do that! And the rest is history."

Kinnara Taiko was one of the very first groups to be established in the U.S. and played a significant role in the development of group taiko, especially in southern California. Kinnara has played at countless events throughout the United States, including a concert for the millennium in Canyon de Chelly on the Navajo Reservation. At the same time, Kinnara has maintained its identity as a Buddhist taiko group, as Derek Oye, one of the members stated: "We (Kinnara) choose to have taiko in our lives, not have our lives revolving around taiko. We choose to study taiko as it relates to our ego and teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. I'm not sure what the next 50 years of Kinnara will bring, but I'm sure it will continue to change and evolve just as the people in the group do."

Thank you to the many who contributed insight for this article, including: Rev. Mas Kodani, Johnny Mori, Qris Yamashita, Donna Ebata, JoAnn Komai, Derek Oye, Goh Furumoto, Ella Camara and Annie Camara. And apologies to all who were not acknowledged or interviewed. Kinnara has a long, rich history and this brief article could not include everything and everyone.

SENSHIN-JI 2026 NOVEMBER 2569

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Daylight Savings Ends **9:45a** Japanese Howa **10a** Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hōyō) and Service ***Following service*** Donuts Following Service: Bachi Babies-Toddler Taiko	**2**	**3** **10:30a-2p** Wasabi Kai Open Studio	**4** **10a-2p** Hongwanji Place **6:30-7:15p** (Zoom) SBG: Chanting, Ritual & Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu – Learning from Senshin Service Book	**5** **10:30a-2p** WasabiKai Open Studio **7-9p** Kinnara Taiko	**6**	**7**
8 **8:30a** Temple Board Meeting **10a** Family Service ***Following service*** Meetings: Jr. YBA ***Following service*** ABA Bingo Fundraiser for WEEMES	**9** **7:30p** ABA Meeting (Zoom only)	**10** **10:30a-2p** WasabiKai Open Studio **7p** BWA Reikai (Zoom)	**11** **10a-2p** Hongwanji Place **6:30-7:15p** (Zoom) SBG: Chanting, Ritual & Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu – Learning from Senshin Service Book	**12** **10:30a-2p** WasabiKai Open Studio **7-9p** Kinnara Taiko	**13**	**14**
15 **10a** Family Service **Rev. Mas Kodani**	**16**	**17** **10:30a-2p** WasabiKai Open Studio	**18** **10a-2p** Hongwanji Place **6:30-7:15p** (Zoom) SBG: Chanting, Ritual & Buddhist Etiquette...	**19** **10:30a-2p** WasabiKai Open Studio **7-9p** Kinnara Taiko	**20**	**21**
22 **10a** Family Service: Guest Speaker: **Rev. David Matsumoto,** President Emeritus of the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) ***Following Service*** **Temple General Meeting**	**23**	**24** **10:30a-2p** WasabiKai Open Studio	**25** **10a-2p** Hongwanji Place	**26 Thanksgiving**	**27**	**28**
29 **10a** Family Service	**30**	Dec 1 **10:30a-2p** Wasabi Kai Open Studio	2 **10a-2p** Hongwanji Place	3 **10:30a-2p** WasabiKai Open Studio **7-9p** Kinnara Taiko	4	5

November SERVICE Toban: Temple

Monthly Toban group responsibilities

Weekly Chair Sunday Service
(Jr. YBA will chair service the 2nd Sunday each month)
Nov 1 Provide donuts/beverages following monthly memorial service
Nov 8 Provide/serve snacks and beverages for Temple Board Mtg

November HONDO Toban

Kelvin Nishikawa
Yoko Nishikawa
Stan Fukawa
Debbi Fukawa

November ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

Nov. 7 Marilyn Shimabukuro/Gilbert Leong
14 Sue Omori/Chris Aihara
21 Fujie Ohata
28 Arlene Yokoyama
Dec. 5 Joyce/Glen Isomoto

**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*

DECEMBER Upcoming Events

Dec. 6 *Bonenkai/Oseibo* Luncheon
12 *Mochitsuki*
13 *Ohsoji,* Temple Clean-up
TBD Winter Senshin Dojo
27 *Ojo Raisan* Practice
31 Year-end service



2026 SENSHIN MOCHITSUKI

Saturday, December 12, 7am until completion

Please join us in one of our annual get-together / work-together activities and in continuing a Senshin tradition. Remember, the Mochitsuki is a temple activitiy and is one of the few activities that brings together all age groups. It is the closeness that Mochitsuki and other temple activities foster that has kept our temple so strong and centered. So come out and spend the day with friends making our own "certified pounded" mochi. As always, lunch will be served.

ONLINE ORDER

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, December 9, 7pm
Join us to wash the rice
Sunday, December 13, 9-11am
Please pick up your orders at the temple and join us for osoji (temple cleanup)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

senshinmochitsuki@gmail.com

2026 SENSHIN MOCHITSUKI ORDER FORM

Payment Options

Check:
Payable to: **Senshin Jr YBA**, mail to **Mochitsuki c/o Senshin Buddhist Temple**
1311 W 37th St. Los Angeles, CA 90007

Zelle:
senshintemplejryba@gmail.com

Zelle

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Quantities are limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so please order early.

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____ **Zip Code:**_____

PHONE: (circle one: cell/home) ( ) - EMAIL:_____

I would like to order:

_____ **pound(s) of komochi @ $8.00 per pound** **$**_____
(LIMIT OF 20 POUNDS; approx. 10 mochi per pound)

_____ **pound(s) of yomogi @ $9.00 per pound** **$**_____

_____ **set(s) of Kasane @ $10.00 per set** **$**_____

TOTAL $ _____





JrYBA CONFERENCE











GAGAKU with KINNARA







OSOJI