

## What is a temple?

If I were speaking strictly from the “everyday” understanding of what a temple is, we could conclude that a temple is the place where we hold funeral services. It should go without saying that holding a funeral service at the temple is very special and meaningful. However, the temple was not built for the purpose of holding funeral services. Although our everyday, common sense understanding would have us believe that the temple is for funeral services, that does not mean to suggest that our everyday understanding of things is always accurate. For example, if we were to speak of what was the everyday understanding of the past, we would have to conclude that the world on which we live on is flat. When we walk on the roads, they are flat. Although from our everyday experience of the world it is sufficient to believe that our world is flat, the truth is quite different. Because our everyday understanding of the world as spherical is our modern understanding of the world, we need not fear falling off of the world when traveling from the Western to the Eastern Hemisphere.

What is the case in considering “the temple is a place for holding funerals?” The *Gohonzon* (Main object of worship) found at our Jodo Shinshu temples is an image of the Buddha Amida. As we face the Gohonzon we repeat the Name Namo Amida Butsu. Another way to say Namo Amida Butsu is to say “*I take refuge in the Buddha of Immeasurable life, I take refuge in the Buddha of Inconceivable light.*” Within Namo Amida Butsu is the meaning of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and the Buddha of Inconceivable Light. In other words, Namo Amida Butsu has within it the meaning of the Buddha of Compassion and the Buddha of Wisdom. If the temple were a place to have funerals, then why did Amida Buddha become the Buddha of Immeasurable Life? If the temple were the place for dying, then wouldn’t it make more sense for Amida to have become the Buddha of Immeasurable Death?

Although this is especially true for those of us living in America, we believe ourselves to be individuals. On the other hand, however, how many of us can actually live our lives simply as individuals? In Japanese the term for *human being* is *nin-gen* or “amongst people.” Thus, when we declare, “I am a human being” then aren’t we actually saying, “I cannot possibly live by myself, I live amongst people?” Each and every day, how many people do we rely upon? Even by just going to buy a carton of milk we are dependent upon the farmers who have raised the milking cows. The driver who carries the milk from the farm to the packing facility, everyone who works at the packing facility, the driver who takes the milk from the packing facility to the stores, the people who built the trucks that delivered the milk, the clerk who places the milk on the shelf, and the check-out clerk are just a few of the other people we need to rely upon just to purchase a carton of milk. We do not, however, need to take it to this level. We can simply limit ourselves to the individual to see this truth.

We are all individuals. Although this is true, in order to have this individual life we all needed

at least the two other lives to be born: our parents. However, in order to have our two parents, for each parent we need two more parents. In looking at our life in this way, it becomes an impossibility to live our lives simply as individuals. From this perspective, it makes less sense to say “I am alive,” than it does to say “I am allowed to live.” This is *Namo Amida Butsu*.

Put in another way, this attitude of “I am allowed to live” can also be phrased as “I will never, ever be totally alone.” Although everyone probably understands that the temple is not just for funerals, what happens when a funeral is held at the temple? In thinking about my own death, it is truly a sad thing indeed. It is at this moment that it becomes very easy for us to question our own existence by asking, “Why was I born?” It is very easy for us to conclude that I am all alone. When confronted by our own death, it doesn’t matter what people around us say. There is no way for them to understand. They can’t understand because it is *my* death. In order for them to understand, they will have to trade places with us. Everyone has to die alone. We are individuals. Do we actually become individuals just at the time of death? How can we be alone? We are together with *Namo Amida Butsu*, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life.

My life, my whole life, was one of being allowed to live. Not just when I am young and healthy, but also when I am ill I was allowed to live. It is because *Amida Buddha* is the Buddha of Immeasurable Life that the Buddha works to show us that our life, in its entirety, was a good life. It is because the Buddha sees my life like a sparkling jewel that the Buddha tries to show us that my whole life, including death, is something not to be thrown away. Our life becomes one of *mottainai* (not being able to adequately express the full value of something). The temple, then, becomes not a place to die, but a place where we are allowed to live. In this light, even the funeral service takes on a whole different meaning. It allows us to see that even in death, I am not alone.

## VENICE OBON FESTIVAL

*July 17 & 18, 2004*

For the past few weeks, preparations for our 2004 Obon are taking place under the direction of General Chairman, Hiroshi Kadomatsu. Work is in progress for obtaining the various street closure and various other permits required by governmental agencies. Obon posters have been readied for distribution and correspondence relating to the Obon is being readied for mailing. Meanwhile, affiliated organizations are busy planning, and purchasing supplies and materials for each of their respective booths. The event will feature delicious foods such as udon, sushi, wonton, chicken teriyaki, corn on the cob, hot dogs, ice shave and many other varieties of foodstuff for the weekend. In addition, there will be some game booths for our youngsters to enjoy.

Obon odori practice under the direction of Judy Hopfield and Julia Ueda will begin on June 23<sup>rd</sup> assisted by Kazuko Kadomatsu, June Fujioka and Kimi Obana. Practices will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights beginning at 7:00 p.m. Actual odori will begin at 6:30 on each of the festival nights of July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

The temple's Obon and Hatsubon Family Service will be held the week following our festival on July 25<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Masao Kodani as our guest speaker for the service. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Each of you are welcome to bring your families and friends to come and enjoy our Obon Festival. The hours are 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

### **OBON ODORI PRACTICE EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY**

**BEGINNING JUNE 23, 2004**

**7:00 P.M.**

## FUJINKAI NEWS

The 35<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service for Mrs. Mary Hatsuye Somen was held on Sunday, March 7, 2004 under the auspices of the Venice Fujinkai. Mrs. Somen passed away in February 2004. She was a Fujinkai komon and an active member. Our deepest condolence to Vickie Morimoto and her family. Thank you to Rev. John Iwohara, Yuri Amamoto, various committee members, and everyone who planned and helped on the day of the Memorial Service.

Our first annual Kakushin-ni Memorial Service was held on Sunday, May 2, 2004 together with the monthly *Jorei Fukyo* program. Kakushin-ni was the youngest daughter of Shinran Shonin and it was she who laid the foundation for the establishment of the Ohtani Hombyo, the Hongwanji, and the Gomonshu system. The declaration to honor and celebrate Kakushin-ni's life was established at the 12<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Women's Convention in Brazil in 2002. Thank you to Rev. John Iwohara our speaker, Dianne Kujubu Belli and Tomoko Fukuda, co-chairpersons for the service, Tatsumi Omote for ordering the otoki manju, and Masako Ido for picking the manju up at Sakura-ya.

The Senior Gathering was enjoyed by everyone. It was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 from 10:30 am. As in previous gatherings, Temple members 80 yrs. and over were invited to a service followed by lunch and entertainment. The planning committee included Sandy Saeki, Eri Iwohara, June Fujioka, Sachi Ito, Tatsumi Omote, Yaye Nishina, and Nobue Masuda. Thank you to the committee and many volunteers who helped. Our next Senior Gathering is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25, 2004.

To commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Temple & Fujinkai and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dharma School a commemorative quilt project committee was formed under the direction of the Fujinkai. Sandy Saeki took the initiative to research the project and presented it to the Fujinkai and the Temple with the completion date of the quilt targeted for Eitaikyo 2005. Members of the quilt committee include Sandy Saeki, Masako Ido, Eri Iwohara, Aiko Kusaba, Aya Masada, Tatsumi Omote, Ethel Sato, and Peggy Yamamoto. This project is opened to everyone who is interested. There will be a meeting on Sunday,

## FUJINKAI NEWS

*(Continued from page 3)*

June 27, 2004 from 12 noon to 3:00 pm. Please attend if you would like to participate.

The VJCC Festival is right around the corner. It will be a busy June 19-20 weekend. Fujinkai will sell wonton again. We would appreciate the support of all the members listed on the work schedule.

Welcome to our new members: Ayako Masada and Peggy Yamamoto. Our best wishes to Mrs. Shigeko Haraga who is recovering from recent hip surgery.

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## WARM & FRIENDLY ART & LITERATURE CONTEST

Building on the mission of the Temple, the Buddhist Education Committee hosted the first "Warm and Friendly Temple" Art and Literature Contest this Spring, culminating with the show and awarding of ribbons during the Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi Service on April 11, 2004.

Works of art and literature were submitted by members of all ages. A distinguished panel of judges including Rev. and Mrs. Mohri; Joan and Gordon Tani of Orange County Buddhist Church; Temple historian, George Waki; Temple *Komons*, Haruo Takaki and Teruo Tamada carefully considered each entry in making their blue ribbon selections.

Judges Joan and Gordon Tani made specific comments on each piece of art and literature. Some of their comments are excerpted below:

**Pre-school Division:** *I like the cut-outs of each illustration!*

**1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Division:** *Watch out! Future artists showing great promise and talent at an early age.*

**High School Division:** Tani Brown's Photo of Derek Amano: *I love this photo. Great composition! And I like her first name.*

**18- 25 Year Old Division:** Nick Belli's Checkerboard: *A chip off the old block but better. He doesn't need a tem to complete a project.*

**26 – 40 Year Old Division:** Eri Iwohara's Painting: *Perfect brush strokes. Nice composition and dimensional depth.*

**41-64 Year Old Division:** *Nice pieces, especially like Roger's (Chouinard) combo of photography and drawing and the pottery by Joyce (Enomoto). Great philosophy from Rev. Iwohara – of course!*

**Masters' Division:** *Impressive work (painting) by Jim Akioka. Impactful work (wood carving) by Ken Amamoto and a touching poem by Ethel Sato.*

**Parent/Child Team:** *Great, creative cover for the album (by Julia, Kayla and Kelsey Ueda.)*

**Grandparent/Child Team:** Nori and Matthew Kurashige: *Fantastic drawing and poetry combination – Talent runs deep in this family.*

**Group Team – Joe Belli/Roger Gishi/Ed Nakamura/Bob Oye:** *Wow, nice wood work. Southern District should order 30 of these! Very nice selection of wood and nice inlaid.*

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## **BUDDHIST EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

On Sunday, April 24, 2004, the Buddhist Education Committee (BEC) and the Temple hosted the 2004 Gardena/WLA/Venice Tri-Temple Mini-workshop. The title of the mini-workshop was "Who Wants to be a Jodo Shinshu Priest?" Approximately 50 were in attendance at this Japanese and English mini-workshop.

The BEC is grateful to the wonderful speakers who made this mini-workshop a memorable experience. Speakers included: Revs. Briones, Miura, Mohri, Oda, and Iwohara, as well as Dr. Billy Saeki.

On April 21, 2004, the BEC launched its first education series, "Buddhism: A Simple Introduction" with Rev. Tetsuo Unno. 60 people registered for this 6 week course. The series wrapped up with a special 7<sup>th</sup> session, which was a potluck/informal discussion session on June 2. All attendees appreciated Rev. Tets, a dynamic speaker with a penetrating intellect and incisive wit.

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## **JR. YBA NEWS**

Much has happened over the last three months for the Venice Jr. YBA. During February, Alyson Yamaguchi, Jayme Heyl, Lauren Kita, Darin Noriyuki and Steven Sharp attended the Southern District YBL Volleyball Tournament at OCBC. Our team failed to win even one game, but we all received plenty of free instant noodles, and left happy. In March, we hosted Seminar II. Our topic was Buddhist funeral traditions. All of our members attended, and there was a good turnout from the other chapters in the Southern District. We owe many thanks to Rev. John and our parents for all the support they gave to us throughout the planning and carrying out of the event.

In April, Jayme, Steven, Mitchell Yahata and Rae Yamamoto attended the Murder Mystery Dinner at Gardena Buddhist Church. Sadly, our four members failed to understand any of the clues given to us. Also in April, we had our annual Bake Sale at the ABA Country Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who supported us by buying our baked goods. On Saturday, May 15, we will be having our Annual Jr. YBA Rummage Sale. We thank everyone for their contributions of items for sale. The event was a success.

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## **ABA NEWS**

Our congratulations to Cyndy Uehara upon her election as "President Elect" of the ABA and the group thanks Cyndy very much. for accepting the position.

Also thank you to the many who came out at very odd and trying hours of the day to help at our famous "Country – Inaka – Style" Breakfast on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The event was very successful. (*Even if someone forgot to put the onions in the fried rice.*) Our gratitude to all who helped especially to event chairperson, Cyndy Uehara along with cooks Kay Obana, Jack Oriba and Richard Kojima.

Come June 19 & 20<sup>th</sup>, VJCC and July 17 & 18, Venice Obon, we again have the opportunity to serve up our delicious, well known, and famous cooked by many, many chefs, Chicken Teriyaki. Everyone is welcome to help us prepare and serve our food on these days. Hope to see all of you there.

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## **DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS**

Dharma School's annual Family Fun Nite was held on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The adults had a good time playing Bingo downstairs while the kids were upstairs enjoying activities that were organized by Laurie Amano. As part of the Warm and Friendly Art and Literature contest, all the children made faces that were put together as beads of a giant Onenju which was displayed during Hanamatsuri. Dharma School would like to thank all that donated refreshments and door prizes for the evening and Sangha Teens for helping with the activities upstairs. Special thanks to Ethel Sato, Alyson Yamaguchi and Jayme Heyl for chairing the event and to all the other Dharma School staff that helped to make our Family Fun Nite a success.

On April 11, Dharma School celebrated Hanamatsuri along with the rest of the temple. Many of the students contributed to the Art and Literature contest with their classes or on their own and they all won ribbons in their particular categories. It was nice seeing all of the students offering flowers at the beginning of the service also. Thanks to those teachers that were able to come early to help set-up the Hanamido, help with the Hatsumairi certificates and get the flowers ready for the representatives. Thanks also to ABA for providing the delicious otoki lunch.

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## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

*(Continued from page 5)*

The following weekend we were fortunate to be able to get together with some of the members from the Fresno Betsuin. Two families from Fresno, the Maltos and Tsudamas, met us at the temple Saturday night after spending the day at Universal Studios. Rev. Yoshii, his wife Mizuho, and his son William drove up that afternoon and also joined us that evening. We all enjoyed meeting one another and snacking on good food. Later we played name Bingo for prizes. The next day on Sunday, the Fresno group joined us for ABA's country breakfast and then service before heading home. Thanks to everyone who brought refreshments, including some of the Fujinkai members, and to Ethel Sato for getting the prizes. We look forward to visits from them again in the future.

Barbara Fukuji and Leticia Kurashige represented the Venice Dharma School at the annual FDSTL conference in San Jose on April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rev. Castro was the keynote speaker and they were able to share ideas and network with teachers from the other temples and districts. Dharma School celebrated Mother's Day on May 9<sup>th</sup> with a special service and luncheon. Thank you to Leslie Fukuji for chairing the service and organizing the otoki lunch for this day. The following week on the 16<sup>th</sup> Dharma School held their annual Gotanye service and picnic at Blanco Park in Culver City. Thank you to Judy Hopfield, Julia Ueda and Laurie Amano for coordinating this family event. There was plenty of food for all as well as games and prizes. As usual, everyone had a memorable time thanks to everyone's efforts and participation.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Dharma School observed our 3<sup>rd</sup> All Life and Pet Memorial service. Thanks to Emily Kariya for chairing this event once again. We will be celebrating Dad's and Grads a week early this year on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully everyone will be able to join us for this special service and otoki lunch at 10:00 am. and we invite everyone to play Wiffle Ball with us the following weekend at the VJCC Festival. Obon is just around the corner also. Make sure to save room in your stomachs for Dharma School's delicious corn and hot dogs. Help from any of the Dharma School students and parents would be greatly appreciated at either the VJCC Festival or Obon. Hope everyone has a great summer!

## CUB PACK 79 REPORT

Marina Cub Scout Pack 79 held it's annual Blue and Gold Dinner and ceremony to commemorate the birthday of Scouting on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The highlight of the ceremony was the awarding of the Arrow of Light award to all six Webelos II Cub Scouts in Den 3. Brennon Chen, Will Furuyama, Grant Giffen, Ian Iwataki, Ryan Morimoto, and Doug Uyeda had worked hard the past year and a half to earn all the requirements of the award. They now are ready to move up to the Boy Scout level. Congratulations to all the boys and their families!

March 19<sup>th</sup> was the night of the Pack's Pinewood Derby race, undoubtedly the most popular Cub event of the year. All the Cubs designed and built a racing car, and raced his against the other Cubs' cars on the six-lane track custom built by the current Temple President Joe Belli back when he was Cubmaster. Will Furuyama was the overall winner this year. His car tied for first last year too. Way to go Will!

Pack 79 held a food drive on March 27<sup>th</sup> outside the Ralphs Market in Marina del Rey. They collected enough food to fill up one and one half vans, and donated it all to the Westside Food Bank in Santa Monica.

Ten Webelos Scouts, and their dads, from Den 3 and Den 4 attended a weekend camping trip on April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> in Newhall. They were the guests of the VJCC sponsored Boy Scout Troup 764. At this Camporee, they competed against other Webelos groups from throughout the Los Angeles area in tying knots, using a compass, building fires, first aid, and cooking. They all learned a lot about teamwork and had a great time doing so.

Scheduled events coming up in May are a trip to the Jet Propulsion Lab open house in Pasadena, and the annual placement of flags on gravesites at the Vets Cemetery in Westwood. The Pack Graduation and dinner is scheduled for June 13, 2004.

**OBON / HATSUBON SERVICE**  
**July 25, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**  
*Rev. Masao Kodani, guest speaker*

## SANGHA TEEN NEWS

*Ryan Sharp, 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

The Venice Sangha Teens who attended the Gardena Sangha Teens activity on February 7 were Amanda Chen, Karyn Heyl, Jill Hopfield, Matthew Kurashige, Justin Nakagiri, Kevin Ozaki, Taylor Yonemitsu, and me, Ryan Sharp. To start off the activity, we listened to a sermon by Reverend Miura. For the ice breaker, everyone joined different groups, and was supposed to go around the temple grounds to find different items, and identify different things (a scavenger hunt). Following the ice breaker, we watched a hypnotist. He took several volunteers and attempted to hypnotize them. He made them think about different things, and had them talk about what they were thinking while they were hypnotized.

After the hypnotist had finished his act, everybody ate dinner. Following dinner, there was a dance in the Social Hall and video games upstairs. The activity ended around 9:00PM.

Overall, I would guess that most of the people enjoyed the activity, but none of us thought anyone really got hypnotized.

Advisor's note: *After attending this event, our Venice Sangha Teens were inspired to host their own multi-Temple Sangha Teens event. Their event will be an ice-skating party on June 12th at the Health South training center in El Segundo. We will have a write-up about it in the next issue of the Gassho News.*

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## GIRL SCOUT TROOP 532 NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL DAY

*By Madeline Hopfield, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade*

International Day is a Girl Scout Neighborhood event where every troop picks a country and prepares food from that country for all the girls to taste. You also provide a display with facts about the country and a craft from that country. This year, the event was on February 21, 2004 and our troop picked Mexico and we had churros for our food and maracas for our craft. I spend some time at our booth putting churros into paper cups, and I ate some churros, too!

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## GIRL SCOUT TROOP 532 NEWS

*(Continued from previous column)*

Each girl gets a "passport" and visits each "country," where they make crafts and sample food. Then she gets a stamp in her passport from that country. I visited Holland and tried the cheese balls (I didn't like them much). I also visited Japan and Ireland and a lot of other countries. I liked our churros a lot, but I especially liked the soba and shoyu from Japan. International Day was fun!!

### COOKIE SALES AND ACTIVITIES

*By Michelle Ozamoto, 7<sup>th</sup> grade*

When you hear Girl Scouts, for many they think of Girl Scout Cookies! Troop 532 did a great job selling cookies to our families and friends. We sold over 6,800 boxes, even with the price increase. Selling cookies is just a part of this troop opportunity event. So our troop provides each girl two shifts to work at a cookie booth, to be able to work on our sales, finances, etiquette and just being able to work for hours taking rejection with a smile and a thank you. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Julia Ueda, our Troop Cookie Sale Chairperson, and her committee of parents – Joyce Enomoto, Frank Giffen, Karen Torimaru, Diane Shimizu, Arlene Tadamaru, Judy Yamaguchi, Sets Inokuchi, Vicki Tokirio and our Neighborhood Chairperson, Louise Ino – for putting in their time so our personal sales and cookie booths could go smoothly. Cookie sales gave our troop a chance to help our community by giving a donation and a reward to each girl for reaching our goal.

With the money we earned from the cookie sales, we were able to fund fun activities for our girls. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, many of the girls were able to participate in a very fun ceramic workshop at Santa Monica Mudd. We were able to be creative with a chunk of clay. The Cadettes were able to use the pottery wheel to sculpt what they wanted to make - bowls, vases, pots or cups. The Brownies and Juniors came later and they created pottery called pinch pots. We each designed our own pottery, by choosing what colors we wanted to paint them, adding handles and any special imprints made from clay using the patterns they provided. The sad part is the waiting time to see our finished piece of art. Each pottery goes through a couple of firing processes to harden our pottery and a glazing process that will make it have a shiny finish. The Cadettes also had a chance to work towards the Artistic Crafts or

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## **GIRL SCOUT TROOP 532 NEWS**

*(Continued from page 7)*

Visual Arts interest patch. We all had a very fun time and hope we can do it again soon.

Another troop event which we have planned is a train trip to San Juan Capistrano. We will write about our adventures in the next issue of the Gassho News.

### **SPRING ENCAMPMENT**

*By Erin Ideishi, 7<sup>th</sup> grade*

(from an interview with Kaitlin Dunlevy)

Kaitlin Dunlevy and six other girls from our troop went to the Marina Neighborhood Spring Encampment on April 23-25, 2004. Kaitlin said she had a great time. She participated in a lot of fun activities like archery, crafts, hiking and square dancing. They also got to sleep in tents. Kaitlin enjoyed archery the best because she never tried it before. She ate hamburgers, pancakes, and sausages. Kaitlin really enjoyed it and recommends other people to go because you will learn to do a lot of things that may become helpful in your life. We would like to thank Vicki Tokirio and Kathy Dunlevy for taking the girls on this fun outing.

### **MINI AWARDS PIZZA PARTY**

*By Erin Ideishi, 7<sup>th</sup> grade*

From everyone's combined efforts in selling nuts and magazines, our troop was able to enjoy a pizza party on April 26 (we received free pizza coupons from Angeles Council as a bonus for our successful sales). Paige Maeda, Amanda Chen and Michelle Ozamoto worked on their cooking badge, so they prepared a menu which included Paige's layered jello, Michelle's cupcakes and Amanda's chicken salad. The Brownies had a mini awards ceremony that had most of the girls receiving some of their try-it badges. Thank you to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Cadettes for preparing food for this yummy pizza party!

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## SO. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Southern District Council cabinet officers for the 2004 term are as follows:

Chairperson ..... Ed Tanaka (Orange County)  
Chairperson-Elect ... Seiko Tamura (Oxnard)  
Vice-Chairperson ..... Tom Fukuman (Gardena)  
Treasurer ..... Kats Nishi (Gardena)  
Recording Secretary.....Rumi Nakatani (Orange County)

Corresponding Secretary ..... Wendie Yumori (Vista)  
Past Chairperson ..... Dr. Billy Saeki (Venice)  
Advisors.....Dr. Ryo Munekata (Los Angeles) & Jim Usui (Senshin)

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### HAPPIS COMING

A supply of new Venice Hongwanji happis are presently being readied to be available in time for Obon. We understand the new coats will be lighter in weight and a touch of color added. Further details regarding price, etc. will be forthcoming.

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### BCA UPDATE

#### BISHOP OGUI TAKES OFFICE

Bishop Koshin Ogui assumed duties as Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, effective April 1, 2004. He will also serve as president of the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

#### REV. HAKUBUN WATANABE TO SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. Hakubun Watanabe, BCA Minister Emeritus and former Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, has been appointed Bishop of the South American Overseas District by the Hongwanji-ha, effective April 1, 2004. In addition to his position as Bishop, Rev. Watanabe will also serve as Rinban of Hakkoku Betsuin in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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The district representatives to the BCA Board of Directors for 2004 are Ed Tanaka of Orange County, Tom Fukuman of Gardena and Ralph Honda of San Diego. Congratulations to Mick Kubota of Vista who was elected BCA Director-at-Large at the BCA National Council meeting in February of this year..

The Southern District Ministers Association Chair is Rev. Shinji Okada of Pasadena.

Our SDBWL co-presidents are Helen Takata and Tsuruko Iwohara, our SDDSTL president is Nancy Tamehiro, our SDYBL president is Daniel Sasaki, our SDJYBL president is Chiemi Mori and the SDJYBL advisor is Patty Nishimura.

**2004 CALENDAR OF MAJOR SERVICE & ACTIVITIES****JUNE, 2004**

- 6 DHARMA SCHOOL FATHER'S DAY & GRADUATES SERVICE – 10 A.M.  
13 SO. DISTRICT BUDDHIST & FUJINKAI CONFERENCE – L.A. BETSUIN  
13 ALL LIFE FORMS/PET MEMORIAL SERVICE – 9:30 A.M.  
19 & 20 V.J.C.C. SUMMER FESTIVAL

**JULY, 2004**

- 17 & 18 VENICE OBON FESTIVAL  
20 OBON FESTIVAL TEMPLE CLEAN UP – 7:00 P.M.  
25 OBON & HATSUBON SERVICE – 10:00 A.M. (*Rev. Masao Kodani, Senshin – Guest Speaker*)

**AUGUST, 2004**

- 7 - 14 L.A.B.C.C. SUMMER CAMP

**SEPTEMBER, 2004**

- 4 A.B.A. MEMORIAL SERVICE – 7:30 P.M.  
5 DHARMA SCHOOL "SUNDAE SUNDAY" – 9:30 A.M. (*First Dharma School Service for new term*)  
12 OHIGAN FAMILY SERVICE – 10:00 A.M.  
17 BCA SOUTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING, OCBC – 7:30 P.M.

**OCTOBER, 2004**

- 3 TEMPLE CHICKEN TERIYAKI BUILDING FUND RAISER – 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.  
9 TEMPLE FALL CLEAN UP DAY - 8:00 A.M.  
16 FUJINKAI ESHINNI SAMA MEMORIAL SERVICE – 7:30 P.M.  
31 DHARMA SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARTY – 5:00 P.M.

**NOVEMBER, 2004**

- 6 ABA STEAK FEAST – 6 P.M.  
12 BCA SOUTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING, OCBC – 7:30 P.M.  
14 FAMILY EITAIKYO SERVICE – 10 A.M. (*Rev. Ken Fujimoto, Lodi – Guest Speaker*)

**DECEMBER, 2004**

- 3 TEMPLE GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING – 7 P.M.  
4 MOCHI TSUKI EQUIPMENT SET UP – 8 A.M.  
10 MOCHI TSUKI ROOM SET UP – 7 P.M.  
11 MOCHI TSUKI – 10 A.M.  
12 MOCHI TSUKI – 7:30 A.M.  
14 TEMPLE CLEAN UP – 7 P.M.  
19 OSEIBO FAMILY APPRECIATION SERVICE – 10 A.M.  
30 JOYA-E, END OF YEAR SERVICE – 7 P.M.

## **REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICES & MEETINGS**

*(This schedule does not apply for the month of August as the temple is closed for all regularly scheduled activity and is limited to emergency and private family services only.)*

- DAILY SERVICE (Everyday except Wednesdays) - 9:30 A.M. to 10 A.M.
  - JOREI FUKYO MONTHLY JAPANESE SERVICE – 1:30 P.M. FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
  - MEINICHIKO SERVICE, 16<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH 7:30 A.M. to 8:20 A.M.  
*(Meinichiko Service will be held in lieu of the Daily Service on the 16<sup>th</sup> of each month)*
  - FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. to 11 A.M.  
*For Students: Dharma School Classes 10:30 A.M. to 10:50 A.M.  
Adult Service 10:30 A.M. to 10:50 A.M.*
  - TEMPLE BOARD & CABINET MEETINGS – 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 P.M.
  - FUJINKAI MEETINGS – TUESDAY FOLLOWING MONTHLY BUKKYOKAI MEETINGS, 7:30 P.M.
  - ABA MEETINGS – FRIDAY FOLLOWING MONTHLY BUKKYOKAI MEETINGS, 7:30 P.M.
  - YABA MEETINGS – 2<sup>ND</sup> MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 P.M.
  - JR. YBA MEETINGS – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FOLLOWING DHARMA SCHOOL
  - SANGHA TEEN MEETINGS – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FOLLOWING DHARMA SCHOOL
  - GIRL SCOUTS – MONDAYS, 5:30 P.M. to 7 P.M.
  - BALLROOM DANCE CLASS – EVERY SUNDAY, 5:00 P.M.
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## **BON ODORI SCHEDULES**

### **JUNE, 2004**

13 ARIZONA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
26 & 27 SUN VALLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

### **JULY, 2004**

3 SENSHIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
3 WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
10 OXNARD BUDDHIST CHURCH  
10 & 11 LOS ANGELES BETSUIN  
17 & 18 ORANGE COUNTY BUDDHIST CHURCH  
17 & 18 PASADENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
**17 & 18 VENICE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
24 & 25 SAN FERNANDO BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
24 & 25 VISTA BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
24 & 25 WEST LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST CHURCH  
24 & 25 HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
31 SAN DIEGO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
31 SAN LUIS OBISPO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
31 & 8/1 GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

### **AUGUST, 2004**

14 LAS VEGAS SANGHA FELLOWSHIP

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