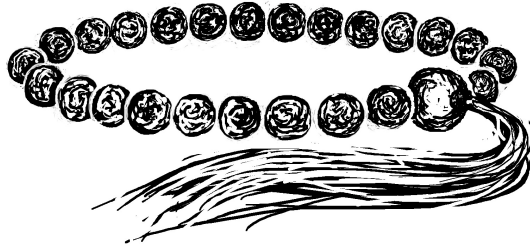


2009 Southern District Conference – June 13, 2009



Dear Southern District Buddhist Temples,

We are writing to invite you to participate in the 2009 Southern District Conference hosted by the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The West L. A. Buddhist Temple is co-sponsoring the Southern District Dharma School Teachers' League Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the Southern District Conference. The Conference will be held at the Los Angeles Betsuin on Saturday, June 13, 2009.

If you are willing to participate, we are asking for a three to five minute presentation on the topic of "What We Do Best at Our Temple." You may prepare a skit, a slide show, a Power Point presentation, a short panel discussion or a simple oral presentation, whatever you feel comfortable doing.

After you have decided on your presentation, please submit a 100 to 250 word description for inclusion in the program booklet. For example, here is a description of a 'best practice' we've done at Venice:

A Monto Shikisho Workshop.

What is a monto shikisho? It is a narrow length of fabric worn draped over the neck and shows that the wearer is a follower of the Jodo Shinshu path. The monto shikisho was made of fabric pre-cut for the workshop. The cording was also pre-cut and marked. Participants learned how to tie the knots, attach them to the fabric, stamp the sagarifuji and decorate their monto shikisho. Ironing was the last step to affix the sagarifuji decal. All materials were provided. This activity brought together all age groups at our temple and allowed them to interact with each other. It's child friendly and gives younger kids a chance to work alongside their peers with the supervision of older children and adults. All our participants are proud to wear their completed monto shikishos at our Sunday services.

Since there will be many Japanese speakers present, please include a Japanese language version as well. Attached is a check-list of audio-visual equipment. Please indicate what you will need for your presentation and return it with your presentation description. If you are undecided as to how you will be presenting your Best Practice or what equipment you will need, you may inform us later by May 1, 2009.

The extended deadline for synopsis submissions is **February 27, 2009**. Please mail to:

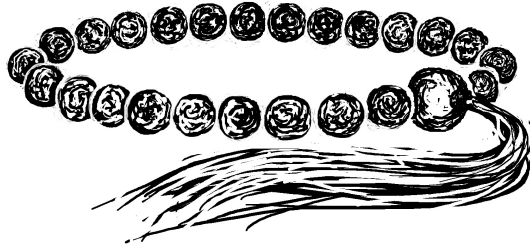
Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Best Practices
12371 Braddock Drive
Culver City, CA 90230

If you have any questions please contact Richard Modiano at 310.439.1507. You may also email information to: RMODIANO@ca.rr.com or Janis Ozaki at jmozaki@hotmail.com .

Sincerely,

Richard Modiano and Janis Ozaki
Co-chairs Best Practices Committee
2009 Southern District Conference

2009 Southern District Conference – June 13, 2009



Please return this page along with your “Best Practice” summary. If you are undecided yet as to what kind of presentation you will be preparing, you may send the information later by May 1, 2009. Thank you.

Temple: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Person’s phone no.: _____

Contact Person’s e-mail: _____

Presentations will be made on a stage. A microphone will be available. If you will need other type of AV devices or equipment, please indicate below.

_____ Digital Projector

_____ Screen

_____ Podium

_____ Laptop computer

_____ DVD player

_____ VHS player

_____ Table(s)

_____ Chair(s)

_____ Other (if available): _____

_____ No other AV devices or equipment will be needed