



HIGASHI HONGANJI NORTH AMERICA DISTRICT
SHINSHŪ ŌTANI-HA HOKUBEI KAIKYŌ-KU

To the ministers, members and friends of our temples:

Many of you have heard about what happened at the Los Angeles Betsuin on the evening of Thursday, February 25. Our security cameras revealed that a man climbed over the fence at the front of the temple and lit our two wooden lantern stands in front of the pillars on fire, then toppled the metal lanterns from their concrete bases at the bottom of the stairway. The last thing he did was to throw a rock at the front entrance which shattered one of the large glass panels next to the main entrance. We were fortunate that no one entered the temple building. We were also relieved that no one got hurt.

As Shin Buddhists, we need to encourage friendships with everyone we live together with. In addition to our efforts to continue to learn from the Buddhadharma, we should do our best to contribute to a society of equals, of true friends living together in harmony.

We are so grateful for the overwhelming kindnesses bestowed upon us from friends in our community and from those near and far who have expressed their wish to support us.

There have been inquiries regarding contributions to help with the repair. We have not begun any kind of fundraising program. As of now, donations can be received through the Betsuin website (<https://hhbt-la.org>).

I would also encourage you to make contributions to your temple to improve security and other needs we all have.

Thank you for your support of our Betsuin and of our district.

Gassho,

Noriaki Ito
Rinban, Los Angeles Betsuin
Bishop, North America District