

Protocol/Etiquette to be Observed at Hongwanji Services  
(presentation by the Reverend Ryoso Toshima at HUHHBWA February 2011 meeting)

**Applicable to Honzan (Nishi Hongwanji Headquarters in Kyoto, Japan):**

- Pick up plastic bag as you enter the hondo; place shoes into bag; carry bag with you.
- Do not cross your legs while sitting in a chair.
- Do not fold your arms across your chest while in sitting position.
- Do not slouch in chair; observe good posture.

**Applicable to all Hongwanji services:**

- Bow as you enter and exit the temple.
- Carry ojuzu (nenju) in left hand. Do not place on seat or floor or carry to restroom.
- Gassho – Hold palms together at 45 degree angle. Place ojuzu around both hands and hold down with both thumbs. Bow at 90 degree angle.
- When kansho (temple bell) is rung to signify start of service, everyone should be quiet.  
Ringing of bell is considered to be part of the service.
- There should be no eating, drinking or chewing gum during services.
- Program booklets (which may have image of the Buddha on its cover and which may contain sutras) and service books should never be placed on floor or on seat of chair/pew. Do not take these items into restroom.
- Remove montoshikisho and put away ojuzu before entering restroom.
- Before opening a “service book,” one should raise it up in front of one’s face with both hands and slightly bow. Do the same when finished with the book. Do this with all books that contain the sutras and/or gathas.