

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

9
September 2013

HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

At Higashi Hongwanji, we remain true to our origins as an open Sangha, welcoming anyone who wishes to learn more about the Jodo Shinshu tradition of Buddhism.

A registered 501(c)3 organization

President: Faye Shigemura
Rinban: Kenjun Kawawata
Minister: Makoto Honda
Associate Minister:
Frank Childs

1685 Alaneo Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Tel: (808) 531-9088
Fax: (808) 531-3265
Email: hhbb@me.com

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Editor: Ken Saiki

REFLECTIONS ON OHIGAN

Rev. Makoto Honda



Spring ohigan is the season to seed, and autumn ohigan is the season to harvest in Japan. My home has a small rice field, and we grew organic rice every year with kindergarten children. Between March and April we seed the rice, and then we plant the rice in the field by hand around June and then between September and October, we harvest the rice with children by hand. Soybeans are also seeded in the spring ohigan season and harvested in the autumn ohigan season, too. My mother grows soybeans, and she makes homemade miso.

Hawaii does not have a big change between the seasons, but Japan does. So people desire a good crop when they seed in spring and appreciate the harvest in autumn. People feel nature and life strongly during this season.

I sometimes forget that human beings are also a part of nature while I am living in Honolulu, where most things are artificial. My hometown had many rice fields in the back of my house, and a green mountain was behind the rice fields. There were no streetlights. The moon was the only light lighting the rice field. When wind blew through the greens, it created a beautiful but eerie sound, especially at night.

We are able to see things very clearly, even at night, in Honolulu. We imagine many things when we see things not so clearly. Strangely enough, when we see things clearly we do not use our senses much. But in the dark we use senses more strongly and may be able to see the world or hear the sounds better. At night, frogs are singing in the stream, and bell crickets are playing music in the field.

When I walk in the field at night, trees take on scary human forms in the moonlight. As I pass slowly, I realize that they are only trees. The wind howls through the tree, and it sounds like a human cry or a ghost. I walk tentatively and cautiously. I get a feeling that there is something beyond myself in the dark. But in Honolulu, I sometimes forget these situations and feelings. The cockroaches that visit my office are my biggest connection to nature.

So Higan is the Other Shore, and the Other Shore is the Pure Land. The Pure Land is the world in which all beings live their natural lives. A friend, a boss, cockroaches, plants and even rain all live as they are. When we live in an ego-centered world, we think that we are the highest beings. If we live in that kind of world, we are unable to see the Pure Land. I believe that to find the world of harmony is to find the Pure Land. And it is here. This is Higan.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cxljG-tx0>



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8oAzO8EGx0>

The melodic nighttime sounds of frogs and crickets in the Japanese countryside can be heard in the YouTube videos accessible by scanning the QR codes above. Or go directly to the URLs shown.

VOLUNTEERS

The people behind our events

Faye Shigemura

Upon their arrival in Hawaii, many immigrants who came to find a better life for themselves found little else to do in this foreign land besides working in the fields. When Buddhist temples were established in Hawaii, besides a place to worship, they became the gathering place, the club house, the natural place to be.

Fast-forward 100 years... how things have changed. Television, computers, cellular phones, Internet, DNA, even cloning doesn't raise as many eyebrows as it did just 50 years ago. Times and people have changed. While Hawaii residents have a healthy respect for the past and cultural values and most say religion is important in their lives, nearly 40% "never go to church or temple," according to a survey published recently in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*.

While Buddhism was the dominant religion in Hawaii before World War II, today the number in Hawaii identifying themselves as Buddhists is closer to 8%, and even less among young people.

With fewer younger members, we have had to tap other resources to help with our temple activities. Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin is fortunate to have four martial arts groups who tirelessly volunteer for our fundraisers and bon dances.

The aikido, jujitsu, karate, and taichi students and teachers come through for us every year. The food crew for our 2013 bon dance on Saturday night was short on key people because of sudden illness and unexpected injury. In walk John Morris and Marjorie Au from the taichi class who came in early in the day to lend their valuable hands. Our panic turned

to huge grins when they appeared at Otani Hall. There was a flash of golden light with harps and organs echoing throughout the kitchen (kinda cheesy, but somewhat accurate). Frances Nakamura also joined in the mayhem and somehow helped us get through the first busy hours of orders. Thank you John, Marge and Frances!

Faye Garan from the Hawaii Jujitsu Koden Kai came with her students in tow, Kyle Kennedy, Kista Gould,

The largest martial arts group is the Aikido Ohana. Alan Nagasawa Sensei marched in with his army of early volunteers David and Jan Nakashima, Tyler Uetake, and Stu Minchen. Following not far behind were Sensei Roger, Earl Nagasawa, Ron Tagami, Jackie Oshiro, Rory Enomoto, Sandy Nakamatsu, Danny Asami, Hiroshi Kato, Koko Tamai, Courtney Oh, Clarise Ikeno, Charlene Watanabe, Marlene, Eiko, Colene and Dayna.

We mentioned the names of some of our helpers in last month's Wa newsletter, but we missed a few. There's a core of temple members who cheerfully devote their time and energy to all our events, Betty Nishida, Peggy Arita, Roy Nakamoto and his handsome grandsons John and Ridge, Jimmy and Flo Hirakawa, the Nakano family, Ken and Kumiko Saiki, Dennis and Debra Saiki, Jonathan Tani and Karen Kamihara, to name a few. This year, we welcomed quite a few additional members who also helped with preparations. Herald and Hilda Takehiro came all the way from Pearl City to help with the cooking, their daughters, sons-in-law, and cases of water and bags of rice in tow.

We can always count on Kei Tsuji and Tadao Iwasaki to show up bright and early to help with the day-after cleanup. Other members who were not able to physically help enabled us to purchase our meat and vegetables with their generous donations.

Thanks to all volunteers, our 2013 bon dance was perhaps the most successful one ever! We continue to seek volunteers every year for various events at this temple. If you can spare a day or two to assist with one of our

events, please call the Betsuin office. It's hard work, but fun and leaves a good feeling in your heart. Keep watching the Wa for announcements of future activities.



Without our stalwart volunteers to help with taking orders, preparing and serving food or making shave ice and performing other duties, our bon dances would not be possible.

Ron Hughes and Steve. FayeG also tapped into her ohana with her nieces Ariana Garan and Erin Tanaka, who we understand were excited to help. We hope they can join us again next year!

News on the Betsuin Wireless

Golden Deer Fun Activities for Kids Begin Sept. 15

Stand by for some fun and exciting times just up ahead with the launching of the Higashi Golden Deer Sunday School and Youth Activities program!



From September 15, and every 1st and 3rd Sunday thereafter, we're holding classes at the Betsuin starting at 10:00 am for toddlers up to five years old and Sunday School for children six to 12. They'll first attend Sunday service, and after the message for children, they move to our classroom for activities such as crafts, stories and games until 11:30 am.

We have planned monthly activities such as hiking and going to the beach.

Our experienced Education staff of Rev. Makoto Honda, Jonathan Tani, Debra Saiki and Jeanne Kawawata have designed a Golden Deer program through which we hope children will find more importance and preciousness in their lives, as well as in others, and learn the way of life through Buddha's teachings.

With your cooperation, we feel the program can contribute toward your children's healthy growth physically and spiritually, toward more

meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren and friends to participate. Call Rev. Honda at 531-9088 for more information.

"Shall We Dance?" Is September Movie

Winner of 14 Japanese Academy Awards—in fact, every award it was eligible to win—"Shall We Dance?" was a box office hit in the U.S., Japan and 19 other countries.

The 119-minute comedy is about a middle-aged workaholic's incredibly dull life taking a funny turn when he signs up for a ballroom dance class. Stars Koji Yakusho and Tamiyo Kusakari. Japanese audio and English subtitles.

Showtime is 6:30 pm on Sep. 24. Admission is FREE. Ample seating in the Fukuhara Conference Room.

シャル ウイ ダンス?

社交ダンス教室を舞台としたハートフルコメディの傑作であり、興行的にも大成功を収め、日本アカデミー賞独占をはじめとする国内の数々の映画賞に輝いた。

出演者：役所広司（杉山正平）、草刈民代（岸川舞）

映時間：119分 入場無料
9月24日（火）午後6:30時



SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR SEPTEMBER

Our September 1 service is our monthly shotsuki remembrance of our temple family members who passed away in September of a past year. At the same service we will also be observing Eitaikyo, which is our annual Perpetual Memorial service held in

Frank Motoshi Arita
Mitsuko Egaki
Nancy Shizue Goya
Toshimi Harauchi
Tsuyako Haruki
Dorothy Haruko Haruno
Yaichiro Hosaka
Shizuo Ichiyama
Vernon Hiroshi Imura
Lois Yoshie Inabata
Dorothy Mitsuko Ishikawa
Chiyoko Kakazu
Nancy M. Kawamoto

Yoshiko Kishimoto
Kiyoko Kono
Hatsuko Kotsubo
Eleanore Tsuruyo Kumamoto
Toshio Matsuura
Curtis Seiji Matsuzaki
Alice Mitsuko Matsuzaki
Masanobu Miyashiro
Leatrice Asae Morita
Harry Hajime Muramoto
Frank Takeo Muraoka
Umeko Nishida
Jenny Lynne Nishioka

memory of all of our departed temple members.

At this month's service we remember the following temple family members who passed away in the month of September:

Tadaichi Oda
Dennis Hiroshi Oishi
Harry Yoshio Okamura
Kiyoto Okumura
Violet Midori Ono
Fumiyo Sagawa
Kazuhisa Sakamoto
Kohei Sakuma
Frank David Santiago
Koji Sekiya
Kameko Sunabe
Tsugio Takaki
Tomoyo Takamatsu

Yukiyo Tanaka
Fumino Teraoka
Masao Harry Terukina
Ralph H. Teruya
Fujiye Teshima
David Koichi Tomita
Miyoko Tsubaki
Chiyoko Tsumoto
Walter Ujimori
Mildred M. Urasaki
Namio Yukutake
*(list includes past
25 years)*

While shotsuki services are observed every year, special *nenki hoyo* memorial services are held during certain auspicious years. These years include the 1st anniversary, followed by memorial services for the

3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 50th years. These services are usually held prior to the actual anniversary date. Please consult a minister for more information on arranging a special service by calling 531-9088.

Coming Up Soon...A Real-I-ly Big Bazaar!

It seems as though it was just six months ago that the bazaar volunteers were exhausted after sorting through donated clothes that no longer fit, children's toys which were replaced five Christmases ago by electronic ones, dog-eared books, Golden Wheat dinnerware, and many unused gifts from Omochaya.

Here we are almost one year later, and the collectors will again start to line up at least one hour prior to opening time, looking for that deal of the century on an antique selling for a mere fraction of the value.

We can use your donated items

We've already amassed a ton of gently used items, thanks to the generosity of members and others, but like anything else, we can always use more.

So, it's again time to clean out those closets, and sort through Okaasan's old *toronko* and *tansu*. First, locate your treasures, then donate what is not wanted to the temple's bazaar.

For myself, a confessed clencher of

my mother's stuff, there is no negotiating what I do with Mommy's memories, which take up a few large boxes somewhere in my home. However, I admit I do have eight lacquer trays, two large sashimi plates, three rice cookers, five coffee makers and one-third of a closet full of still-tagged clothes in various stages of outdatedness, most of which I must release to make more room for my next purchases at Las Vegas outlet malls.

September 29 is Bazaar Day

Mark the last Sunday in September, when doors will open at 9:00 am at Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin's Otani Center at 1685 Alaneo St. in Liliha.

For those who like to shop and eat, we'll have lunch items and drinks



Last year's bazaar drew a big crowd of treasure-seekers from the neighborhood and elsewhere, hoping to find a second life for someone else's unused or unneeded items.

available for purchase to celebrate the great bargains you found.

We can use your help, too.

And don't forget...we're also looking for a few good volunteers to price items in the days preceding and help with sales with the day of the bazaar.

Please call Rev. Makoto Honda at 531-9088 if you have questions.

– Faye Shigemura



Shiginkai members perform a vocal tribute at obon ceremonies sponsored by Hawaii Meiji Kai in memory of 16 Meiji-era Imperial Japanese Navy sailors buried at the Makiki Japanese Naval cemetery. Bishop Kenjun Kawawata co-officiated the August 15 service with Bishop Ryokan Ara of Tendai Mission of Hawaii.

GO GREEN

Getting your monthly Wa bulletin by email instead of on paper may be a way for you to help us to conserve resources.

To switch to an electronic version of our Wa newsletter, send an email, with subject line "Email Wa," including your name and address, to the Betsuin at hbbb@me.com.

Then, starting next month, your Wa will arrive in your email inbox instead of being delivered to your mailbox by your mail carrier.

You'll be helping us save some paper and receive a bonus while at it. Your bonus? The emailed version of Wa comes in color!



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
1685 ALANEO STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2013

9/1	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki memorial service
9/1	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room
9/8	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
9/10	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara Conference Room
9/12	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
9/15	Sun	10 am	Sunday service & Sunday school
9/17	Tue	7 pm	O-ko: Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
9/22	Sun	10 am	Ohigan service
9/22	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
9/24	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
9/24	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Shall We Dance? Japanese audio/English subtitles Fukuhara Conference Room
9/28	Sat	1pm	Recitation circle
9/29	Sun	9 am	Bazaar at Otani Center

OCTOBER 2013

10/6	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki/Perpetual memorial service & Sunday school
10/6	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
10/8	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
10/10	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
10/10	Thu	7 pm	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
10/13	Sun	10 am	Short Sunday service & Omigaki (Polishing of altar implements)
10/13	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
10/15	Tue	7 pm	O-ko: Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
10/19	Sat	10 am	Ho-on-ko gathering
10/20	Sun	10 am	Ho-on-ko service
10/22	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
10/22	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Jiro Dreams of Sushi
10/27	Sun	10 am	No Sunday service (Kaneohe Ho-on-ko)
10/28	Mon	1pm	Recitation circle

Everyone is welcome to join in on our sutra chanting at 7 am daily (except Sundays) in the Betsuin Main Hall.