

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

3
March 2014

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

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Wa is published monthly by Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for its members and friends. Comments, articles and other items for publication consideration are welcomed.

Editor: Ken Saiki

HOME IS...

Rev. Makoto Honda



When I say the word “Home,” what do you picture? Where you live now? Where you used to live? Do you see the whole house or perhaps just a certain place in your house?

What would be the expectations for your home? Is it peaceful? Do you see your family? What meals are you eating? Are there certain smells in the air? Before you move to the next paragraph, think about these things. Or if you are with someone right now, you may want to share these questions with them.

One day I met a lady at the temple. Her memory was fading, unfortunately, yet she visited our temple with her son. She shared many stories about her life, such as where she lived and what her jobs were. She was kind enough to invite me to her home. According to her son, the place she invited me to was a previous residence, where her life was very difficult. So I imagined that the old house was really “home” to her. Because of her life events, she remembered the old place better.

I was fortunate to be able to return to Japan last month—my first trip back since I was assigned as minister at the Hawaii Betsuin a year and a half ago—and visit the house where I was raised. I lived in that house until I was 15, before moving to England. Upon my return to Japan eight years later, I lived there again for another three years, before leaving to study to become a minister. So that house was my home for most of my life.

When I saw my house on this last trip, I was shocked because it looked as though my house had shrunk. Everything looked smaller. In my memory, my house was a lot bigger. I do not remember having to duck to go through many of the doors. And the rooms were so small. I only needed a few steps to reach the other end of the room. I’m already 31, so surely I haven’t grown any since the last time (at least not vertically; horizontally I’m not so sure). My line of vision hasn’t changed. I was wondering then why this was so. To me this means my childhood memories are much stronger than my adult memories.

At a Sunday service, I once asked members the same question: When I say the word “home,” what do you picture? Many of the members told me that it is the house in which they grew up.

Today, what would you find in your home. Joy? Fighting? Crying? Security? Relaxation? Fun? Hope? Love? Acceptance? No matter how you might describe your home, I believe it is the place where you want to go back to. Home is where your life has been lived fully.

Studying Buddhism is just like that. We listen to Buddhism so that Life (or Soul) is able to return where it truly belongs in our daily lives.

One of my teachers once said—and it has stayed with me ever since—“My lifetime job is to return my soul to childhood.” I believe studying about your home is the same as it is studying about the Pure Land, or *Higan*. One remembers the strongest feelings of one’s Life the best. Those feelings and memories as children lead to the foundation of Life.



SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Sunday, March 16, 10:00 am

On Making Horse Sense

In a recent Sunday service dharma message, Bishop Ken Kawawata shared a parable about a horse owned by Saiou, a farmer living in ancient China, to illustrate how things don't always go the way you expect.

"One day Saiou's horse ran away and the old man cursed the bad luck. After a few days the horse returned with another horse with it, so Saiou felt quite happy that it turned out to be good luck, after all. But some time later, while riding the new horse, his son fell and broke his leg. Oh, no, bad luck again, the old man thought, until the army showed up at the village and took all the able-bodied men to fight in a war. Because of his broken leg, the son was, fortunately, left behind."

This story, which points out that one's fortune is unpredictable and changeable, is a well-known Japanese proverb: 人間万事塞翁が馬 (*Ningen banji saiou ga uma*) or "All human affairs are like Saiou's horse."

There are many other horse-related Japanese *kotowaza*, or proverbs since horses in Japan have always lived and worked side by side with people. Another saying: 馬の耳に念仏 (*Uma o mimi ni nembutsu*), literally, a sutra in a horse's ear, or "You can't talk sense to a horse." It's used to describe a wasted effort, such as trying to explain something to someone who isn't able to understand at all or refuses to listen to good advice.



Of the more than 30,000 proverbs you'll find in Japanese dictionaries, many are from Buddhist scripture, of Chinese origin or direct translations of Western proverbs. Whether native or borrowed, the proverbs give insight to the psychology of the Japanese people.

尻馬に乗る (*Shiriuma ni noru*), or riding on the horse's rear end. Since it means riding behind someone else on the horse's back, the phrase is used to describe someone who imitates another blindly.

馬子にも衣装 (*Mago ni mo ishō*), or a packhorse driver in fine clothes. In other words, "The clothes make the man."

おいたる馬は道に忘れず (*Oitaru uma wa michi o wasurezu*). An old horse does not forget his path.

竹馬の友 *Chikuba no tomo*, or childhood friend. *Chikuba* (also read *takeuma*) is a branch of bamboo with attached "tail" of leaves sticking out, ridden around like a horse by children. *Chikuba* is also a pair of bamboo poles with footrests, or stilts, another traditional childhood pastime.

牛は牛連れ、馬は馬連れ (*Ushi wa ushizure, uma wa umazure*), which means cows follow cows, horses follow horses. Same idea as "Birds of a feather flock together."

牛を馬に乗り換える (*Ushi o uma ni norikaeru*). Switch from riding an ox to riding a horse. You may hear this saying when someone changes to a faster mode of transportation, such as from a train to an airplane. By extension, it can also describe making any change for the better.

— Ken Saiki

SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR MARCH

Our monthly shotsuki memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 2. This remembrance service provides an ideal opportunity for family members to

get together to express appreciation for the gift of life from those who came before them, and at the same time, listen to the dharma.

Kay Kazuko Amuro
Jhosuke Asato
Kitoku Asato
Gary Shinyu Asato
Clifford Fujimoto
Yoshio Fukuda
Shige Gibo
Richard Susumu Goya
Kurao Haruno
Marion M. Hatakenaka
Ayako Hayase
Robert T. Hayase
Martha K. Hayashida
Yoshito Hebaru

Teri Teruko Higa
Jinichi Higa
Margaret Haruko Higa
Charles Takeshi Hirata
Stanley M. Honda
Kikuyo Ifuku
Elsie Nobue Ishii
Hatsuyo Iwahashi
Toshio Kaichi
Takuji Kanemaru
Howard K. Kaneshiro
Yasuko Kawada
Chiyoko Kaya Kimura
Haruko Kinoshita

Haruko Sugita Kono
Yoshiko Kumamaru
Betsy Shigeko Lam
Robert K. Matsuda
Yoshiko Matsumoto
Herbert S. Matsumura
Jane Sueno Matsunaga
Alma Kumae Matsuoka
Edith Shigeko Miyasato
Ruth Yaeko Nakano
Florence T. Nishizawa
Gladys Yoshie Oda
Masako Ogata
Tsutae Ogawa

Jack Kikuo Okazaki
Mitsuo Omiya
S. Shizuko Onaka
Ben Tsutomu Sagawa
Robert Koru Saiki
Hinaye Saiki
Gyoko Saito
Richard M. Shimogawa
Itaro Shimotsu
Frances Shizu Shinko
Toshio Shinohara
Handy Seisei Sueyoshi
Shizuko Tagami
Glenn Takaki

Kikue Takamatsu
Gladys Kiyoko Taketa
Hatsuko Tamanaha
Toku Toda
Herbert M. Tokunaga
Bill Masaichi Toma
Rosie Hanae Uchida
Satoru Uyeno
Richard Isamu Uyema
Manabu Yamakawa
Haruki Yamauchi
Shizuko Yoshida
(listing includes past 25 years only)



Betsuin members congratulate a lei-bedecked Dr. George Tanabe at a United Japanese Society luncheon honoring him for his imperial decoration, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, conferred by the government of Japan.

Dr. Tanabe returns for encore lecture series

A second series of lectures by Dr. George Tanabe, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii, is tentatively scheduled for April 8, 10, 15 and 17.

Dr. Tanabe's four-part lecture series on Finding Harmony in Chaos in November 2013 was extremely well-received. Higashi Hongwanji's Dharma Study Center received several requests for more of the same.

Watch for registration details in the mail or drop by the temple for more information.

March movie feature: *Twenty-Four Eyes*

One of Japan's most popular and endearing classics, this 1954 black-and-white film follows the career of a schoolteacher named Ōishi (played by Hideko Takamine) in Shōdoshima during the rise and fall of Japanese ultra-nationalism in the beginning of the Shōwa period. The narrative begins in 1928 with the teacher's first class of 1st grade students and follows her through 1946.

The movie won the Golden Globe Foreign Language Film award in 1955. 154 minutes. Japanese audio with English subtitles.

Free admission. Showtime 6:30 pm, Tuesday, March 25. Ample seating in the Fukuhara Conference Room.

二十四の瞳（にじゅうしのひとみ）

日本が第二次世界大戦を突き進んだ歴史のうねりに、否応なく飲み込まれていく女性教師と生徒たちの苦難と悲劇を通して、戦争の悲壮さを描いた作品である。

1955年度のゴールデングローブ賞 外国語映画賞を受賞。映画人が選ぶオールタイムベスト100・日本映画編では8位にランクインされている。出演者：高峰秀子 言語：日本語、字幕：英語 上映時間：154分 白黒 入場無料 3月25日（火）午後6:30時

2014 shinnenkai celebrates the new year

About 75 members and friends filled Otani Center at the Betsuin's General Membership Meeting and Shinnenkai - New Year Party held on Feb. 23.

After a short business meeting led by Faye Shigemura, reviewing the temple's accomplishments during the past year, everyone enjoyed a festive Chinese lunch.

Entertainment opened with the Yamagata folk song *Hanagasa Ondo*, danced by a group of Bando and Hanayagi Japanese classical dance-trained *natori*, plus a surprisingly nimble Rev. Makoto Honda.

Then a group of temple ukulele musicians known as the Dharma Hawaiians (or Daruma Hawaiians, depending on whom you ask), did a group sing-along with *Yuuyake Koyake* and *You Are My Sunshine*, followed by *At the Hukilau* group hula.

The all-minister "Bonsan Band-o" then played some melodies from the days of their youth, accompanied by group singing.

Atsuko Nonaka's Harada Nao Azusa Kai entertained with five songs, *Hanagasa Ondo*, *Sakazukuri Iwai Uta*, *Harada Kai Ondo*, *Shan Shan Uma Dochu Uta* and *Kyushu Tanko Bushi*. The audience joined in a bon dance circle for the last song.

A lucky number drawing, scavenger hunt and karaoke rounded out the gathering's festivities.

Mahalo to all who attended and to those who gave of their time and effort to make for a fun and enjoyable event.

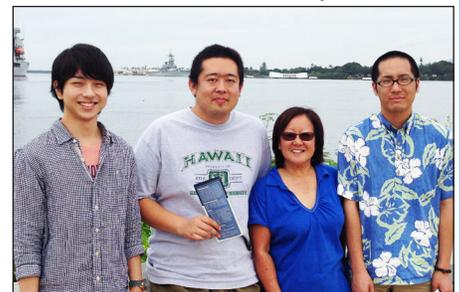
Otani students experience Hawaii temple life

Two 3rd-year students at Kyoto's Otani University, which trains ministers in our Higashi Hongwanji sect, are spending a month of personal time at the Betsuin. While here, they hope to gain better insight into how overseas missions operate.

Riaru Kai and Shinren Tomishige, both 21, have been assisting with various temple ministerial duties and have gone sightseeing during their spare time. They return to Japan in early March.



The tasty buffet choices catered from Golden Lion Chinese Kitchen in Waimalu were a big hit with shinnenkai attendees.



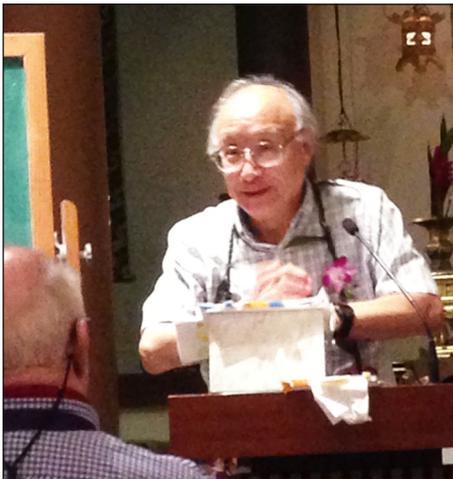
Riaru (l) and Shinren (r) tour Pearl Harbor with Rev. Honda and Faye Shigemura.

Public Lecture and Joint District Dobo Retreat Highlights

Local Shin Buddhism followers were treated to two excellent opportunities to listen to Jodo Shinshu presentations in February by Dr. Nobuo Haneda, of the Maida Center of Buddhism in Berkeley.

PUBLIC LECTURE

The first was at a Shinshu Center of America public lecture at the Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin main hall, where he faced stiff competition with other Valentine's



Dr. Haneda enthusiastically talks about Manshi Kiyozawa, whom he described as the "Shinran Shonin of Modern Times."

Day activities on the evening of Feb. 14 to describe the life and beliefs of the reformer Manshi Kiyozawa, often called "The Father of Modern Japanese Shin Buddhism."

With his usual impassioned zeal, Dr. Haneda dove into details of Kiyozawa's life and how it paralleled Sakyamuni Buddha's and Shinran Shonin's life in religious practices, subsequent renunciation of their practices, awakening experiences and dynamic lives after wakening.

Kiyozawa viewed Buddhism as a teaching of self-examination—the basis of other world religions as well—but did not view Shin Buddhism as a teaching of salvation by faith in an external savior.

He challenged traditional, established Edo-era Shin Buddhism doctrine and attempted to restore

Shinran's original teachings. At one point, Kiyozawa was labeled a "heretic," lost his teaching position and was even briefly expelled from the Otani-ha sect along with others in his reform movement.

Eventually, Kiyozawa resumed his educational activities and his students developed his Shin teachings into the 20th century and revived the Dobo reformation movement we see today.

Because of many questions from the audience, the Q&A session extended more than an hour beyond the original schedule. Not wanting to miss out on any of Dr. Haneda's enthusiastic responses, nearly everyone chose to remain until time finally had to be called.

HAWAII DISTRICT JOINT RETREAT

The following day, Feb. 15, Higashi Honganji Hawaii District held the first Joint Dobo Retreat leading up to the Betsuin's centennial. Dr. Haneda led the all-day event with the theme, "Hongan - Aspiration" at the Otani Center.

The Parable of the Two Rivers and the White Path, by Chinese Pure Land monk Shan-tao, provided all a wonderful opportunity to learn again about life's journey as we approach Spring Ohigan and set our sights on the Other Shore.

In the parable, a man is traveling west when he comes upon an

endless river, a hundred paces across. To the south is a raging fire, and to the north, billowing waves of water. A single white path, four or five inches across separates the two. Bandits and vicious animals are close behind.

Facing sure death, the traveler makes up his mind and chooses to cross over the white path. An encouraging voice to the east urges him on, while a voice to the west calls to him and promises to protect him. Meanwhile, the bandits try to convince him to turn back.

He single-mindedly presses forward and reaches the western side, meets his good friend and his joy is boundless.

The traveler in the parable represents all human beings as we journey from this world (east) to the land of perfect bliss (west). Greed and desire (water) and anger and hatred (fire) challenge us. Since the good mind is slight, it's like the white path.

While others of different practices are calling out and trying to confuse us, we follow Sakyamuni's teachings (voice from the east) as well as the intent of Amida's call (voice beckoning from the west). By entrusting ourselves completely to the power of Amida's Vow and continuing to listen and rely on the dharma, we are able to keep walking on the path of eternal happiness toward the Pure Land.



Some 24 Oahu and Kauai residents attended the Feb. 15 retreat at the Betsuin. A similar retreat was conducted at the Hilo Higashi Hongwanji Mission the next day for Big Island residents.



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MARCH 2014

3/2	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki memorial service & Sunday school
3/2	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room
3/9	Sun	10 am	Betsuin local retreat Lecturer: Rev. Marcos Sawada
3/11	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
3/13	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
3/15	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
3/16	Sun	10 am	Ohigan service & Sunday school
3/16	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
3/18	Tue	7 pm	O-ko: dharma discussion at Kaneohe
3/23	Sun	10 am	Rennyō Shonin's memorial day service
3/25	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
3/25	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: 24 Eyes (二十四の瞳) Fukuhara Conference Room
3/28	Fri	10 am	Shinran Shonin memorial service
3/28	Fri	11 am	Recitation circle
3/30	Sun	10 am	Sunday service & omigaki

APRIL 2014

4/6	Sun	10 am	HBC Buddha Day service Jodo Mission of Hawaii
4/6	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room
4/8	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
4/8	Tue	7 pm	Lecture - Part 1 - Dr. George Tanabe
4/10	Thu	7 pm	Lecture - Part 2 - Dr. George Tanabe
4/12	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
4/13	Sun	10 am	Hanamatsuri service
4/15	Tue	7 pm	Lecture - Part 3 - Dr. George Tanabe
4/17	Thu	7 pm	Lecture - Part 4 - Dr. George Tanabe
4/20	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki service & Sunday school
4/20	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
4/22	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
4/22	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Ballad of Narayama (檜山節考)
4/27	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
4/28	Mon	10 am	Shinran Shonin memorial service
4/28	Mon	11 am	Recitation circle

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