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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

June 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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Editor: Ken Saiki

TRANSFORMATION

Rinban Ken Kawawata

The Turtle long ago, I was tormented by my dreadfully short legs. I suffered because I had to carry my cumbersome heavy shell. No matter how many years I lived, I could find no appreciation of life. But now, many many years later, after hearing the Dharma, I realized that it was the shortness of my legs that enabled me to walk forward steadily, surely... never wandering from my destination. My hard shell protected me from all kinds of dangers I encountered, giving me the opportunity to live as long as I have. How grateful I am, Namu Amida Butsu.

When Rev. Koen Mishima, one of West Covina Buddhist Temple's previous ministers, left Los Angeles, he gave me this poem. This turtle poem talks about how Buddha's teaching can transform us. When the turtle encountered the Buddha Dharma, his entire view of himself changed and he started to live in a new world.

Normally, when we have problems, we think the cause of the problems are outside us, because our eyes are always only looking outward. We think our eyes were not made for seeing inward. However, Buddha's teaching gives us the eyes to see inward.

That is why the turtle initially just complained about his short legs and heavy shell. But then he realized he had four short legs and that, because of their very shortness, he never fell and never lost his way. He also realized



that his heavy shell protected him from his enemies, and from the heat. With this realization, his view changed. He became an appreciative turtle.

Actually, when he accepted his nature as it was, his shortcomings turned into assets. From this point, he changed and started a new life. This is the transformation brought by the dharma.

Like the turtle, we always view our shortcomings as problems exterior to ourselves and fail to appreciate what we really are. However, Shinran said that when we encounter the dharma—the light of compassion and wisdom—these delusions of ours melt like ice and turn to pure water. With this transformation, we become one with the water of the “ocean,” that world of oneness, the world of Amida's infinite compassion.

Thus, just as rusted iron turns to gold, when we realize our own ignorance, our ignorance turns to wisdom and, like a stone that turns into a diamond, we start to shine.

When we complain about our life, we are only seeing the negative side of things. But if we realize our life is not always smooth and happy and that it will contain both good and bad, we can live in peace with both aspects, good and bad, convenient or inconvenient, throughout our life.

When we encounter the dharma, the teaching of truth, our life will change. We will be transformed and appreciate our life as it is. Our life will become creative and dynamic and start to shine.

Send us your favorite photos for our district calendar!

Hi everyone! Planning for the 2015 Higashi Hongwanji District calendar has begun, and for this year, we're asking members and friends to help us make the calendar.

We'd like to show temple activities, nature, people and other everyday things that are important to us. Photographs of families, parents, grandparents, kids, aunts and uncles, flowers and other plants, pets, and even 'selfies' are welcome. Please share your favorite pix. They may be displayed prominently or in a collage



in our 2015 district calendar.

Multiple submittals are welcome, but, of course, there is no guarantee that a submitted photo will be used. Knowing names of the people in the photograph would be nice (for history!) but names will likely not be used in the calendar. We will be asking for written permission for use of personal images

(especially minors) and release forms will be provided.

Please send your digital photos to calendar@hhbt-hi.org (or if you only have a print, submit it to your minister and we can scan it and return your print, along with a digital copy via email or on a CD).

The Teaching of Buddha

For those who seek Enlightenment, there are three ways of practice that must be understood and followed: first, disciplines for practical behavior; second, right concentration of mind; and third, wisdom.

Disciplines for practical behavior

Everyone, whether a person is a common person or a way-seeker, should follow the precepts for good behavior. One should control both the mind and body, and guard the gates of one's five senses. One should be afraid of even a trifling evil and, from moment to moment, should endeavor to practice only good deeds.

Right concentration of mind

Concentration of mind means to quickly get away from greedy and evil desires as they arise and to hold the mind pure and tranquil.

Wisdom

Wisdom is the ability to perfectly understand the Fourfold Noble Truths, to know the fact of suffering and its nature; to know the source of suffering, to know what constitutes the end of suffering, and to know the Noble Path that leads to the end of suffering.

Those who earnestly follow these

three ways of practice may rightly be called the disciples of Buddha.

The Four Noble Truths

The world is full of suffering.

Birth is suffering, old age is suffering, sickness and death are sufferings. To meet a person whom one hates is suffering, to be separated from a beloved one is suffering, to be vainly struggling to satisfy one's needs is



苦 Suffering

suffering. In fact, life that is not free from desire and passion is always involved with distress. This is called **the Truth of Suffering.**

The cause of human suffering is undoubtedly found in the thirsts of the physical body and in the illusions of worldly passion. If these thirsts and illusions are traced to their source, they are found to be rooted in the intense desires of physical instincts. Thus, desire, having



集 The Cause of Suffering

a strong will to live as its basis, seeks that which feels desirable, even if it is sometimes death. This is called **the Truth of the Cause of Suffering.**

If desire, which lies at the root of



滅 The Extinction of Suffering

all human passion, can be removed, then passion will die out and all human suffering will be ended. This is called **the Truth of the Cessation of Suffering.**

In order to enter into a state where there is no desire and no suffering, one must follow a certain Path.

This is called **the Truth of the Noble Path to the Cessation of the Cause of Suffering.**

People should keep these Four Noble Truths clearly in mind.



道 The Path to Nirvana

—Excerpted and edited from "Messages from the Buddha," published by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai

Our Mother's Day Feast

I knew men were good for something. The male counterparts at Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin became Heroes For A Day in the kitchen. They prepared their best dishes for the grateful and happy mothers on Sunday, in celebration of Mother's Day.

Kei Tsuji made chicken curry from scratch, no less. As Bishop Kawawata said, it brought back memories of his mother's cooking. I had two servings.

Ken Saiki prepared his delicious *oden* with hot *karashi* mustard. Lots of daikon, fishcake of different sizes and shapes, *konbu*, *konnyaku*, hard-boiled eggs and even *kinchaku*. Ken's dashi is always tasty, and this was no exception. He must get good training from his wife, Kumiko. Slurp. I had two servings.

Dennis Saiki, Ken's baby brother, made healthy *kabocha* with *ebi*, and *namasu* that rivaled Mrs. Nonaka's. Thin cucumber slices and baby clams begged to be savored slowly. I had three quick servings. Y-y-yumm!

Rev. Makoto Honda surprised us all with his shoyu pork belly. Who would have thunk he could prepare something so delicious! He said he got the recipe off the Internet. He baked a yellow cake, too. Go, go, Mako-to!

Bishop Kawawata made well-seasoned *kinpira* using fresh *kakuma* from the Big Island, where he recently visited. He also made chicken and *kakuma kamameshi*. Good planning, Bishop! I must have eaten at least two persons' share.

Rev. Takafumi Bansaka showed us that his work experience at an *izakaya* did not go to waste and presented us with delicious *mabo tofu*. This, too, did not escape my hungry eyes. My dilemma was whether to eat *mabo tofu* with white rice or the chicken *kamameshi* rice.

John Ishikawa and Roy Nakamoto thoughtfully provided a because-I-said-so low-calorie dessert of chocolate haupia pie, always a favorite with us mothers. I ate dessert first.

Jonathan Tani helped complete the feast with a couple of perfectly browned roast chickens and the drinks. I don't know who got the wishbones, but I was stuffed.

And to provide the exclamation point to the delightful buffet was Jim Hiramawa's contribution of traditional Japanese *wagashi* sweets, the perfect complement to a brimming cup of hot green tea after lunch.

Okay, so this is where the celebration ended. After lunch, all the men picked up their pots and hurried off somewhere, leaving the mothers to the clean-up. Well, they didn't promise to clean up, just to cook, so no promises were broken. We really didn't mind, since they so graciously thought of the idea, and we could enjoy another half hour in bed. Hope everyone had a nice Mother's Day.

Let's have another Mother's Day next month!

– Faye Shigemura



The Greening of the Betsuin

At the temple, we have a treasure in a small package named Joyce Masaki. Joyce taught school on the mainland, retired, and now volunteers at a few places, including the Bishop Museum and Higashi Hongwanji. She listened to our wishes for more beautiful, easy-to-care-for plants, and has single-handedly started changing and improving our landscaping.

The next time you visit, you'll see changes in our gardens and borders. Joyce's work continues, and she's looking for items to use in her quest for Nirvana gardens.

If you have any items on her wish list to donate to the temple, please call us at 531-9088.

Also, let us know if you can squeeze in some time during the week to help with landscaping.

Because of the success of our volunteer Kokua Day in April, we're planning to schedule one every quarter. It's more fun when we can work together as a team and get to know each other better. Our next Kokua Day will be right before our bon dance in July, so watch for an announcement in Wa.

Temple Garden Wish List

Plants

Plants with hardy flowers for altar
White hydrangea
Song of India (*dracaena reflexa*)
Jade plant
Herbs for herb garden
Succulents for cactus garden

Rocks/bricks/tile

Large rocks for rock garden
Landscaping pebbles
Cinders
Bricks & hollow tile

Pots

1- to 3-gallon plant pots



Some temple members ham it up for the camera after a picnic lunch at a Nuuanu park.

Picture-perfect picnic at the park

After the May shotsuki service we packed our picnic baskets and headed for Nuuanu Valley Park on Puiwa Road for a picture-taking outdoor feast.

Jeanne Kawawata made her famous ever-so-neat Spam musubi, while Joyce Masaki, Kazue Uechi, and Margaret Hamachi each prepared chicken in a different way.

John and Roy Nakamoto picked up pizzas, Debra Saiki brought *tsukemono*, Atsuko Nonaka, simmered *kabocha* and Faye Shigemura, carrot and celery sticks.

Next to us was a Special Olympics group, who combined practicing their games with a picnic. We cheered them on, giving them a chance to enjoy the 'roar of the

crowd' as they did their best to experience the thrill of victory.

Bishop Kawawata brought his camera and lighting equipment to the picnic for portrait sittings. You can view some of his work on the bulletin board in the temple hallway. The park provided an ideal setting and the weather was great. Professional photographers often use the park for portraits, taking advantage of Nuuanu Stream passing through as a small brook, a rope swing and a large low-hanging branch as picturesque elements of the natural surroundings.

Our next photo sessions will give you an opportunity to dress up in kimono, if you wish. If you have your own kimono, you may bring it to the session, or you may

use one of ours. Because kimono sittings will be a more involved session that needs preparation, please call for an appointment. Hair and make-up should be done prior to coming. These sessions will be held after our shotsuki memorial services on the first Sunday of the month, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm.

"The Hidden Blade" is June movie

The 2004 film *The Hidden Blade* is set in 1860s Japan. The plot revolves around several samurai during a time of change in the ruling and class structures of Japan. The film was written and directed by Yoji Yamada and, like its hit predecessor, *The Twilight Samurai*, is based on a short story by Shūhei Fujisawa.

Awarded the Japan Academy Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Art. Stars Masatoshi Nagase as Munezo Katagiri. Japanese audio with English subtitles.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tuesday, June 23. 131 minutes. Free admission, open to all. Ample seating in Fukuhara Conference Room.

隠し剣 鬼の爪 (かくしけん おにのつめ)

「たそがれ清兵衛」に続く、山田洋次監督 & 藤沢周平原作の人情時代劇。秘剣「鬼の爪」を伝授された平侍がたどる予期せぬ運命と、信念と愛に生きる姿を描き出す。日本アカデミー賞美術賞 された。

出演者 片桐宗蔵：永瀬正敏 公開：2004年 言語：日本語、字幕：英語 映時間：131分 入場無料 6月23日(火)午後6:30時

By benefit of Infinite Light, true entrusting is magnificent. The ice of desire is melted to become the water of Nirvana. Our desires are the essence of Nirvana, like the relation of ice and water. The more ice, the more water: the more desire, the more Nirvana.

– Shinran Shonin





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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JUNE 2014

6/1	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki memorial service & Sunday school
6/1	Sun	12 pm	Family portrait sitting
6/8	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
6/8	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
6/10	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/12	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
6/14	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
6/15	Sun	10 am	Father's Day family service
6/15	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
6/17	Tue	7 pm	O-ko: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
6/22	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
6/22	Sun	11:30 am	Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning Picnic lunch at Kakaako Waterfront Park
6/24	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/24	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>The Hidden Blade</i>
6/28	Sat	10 am	Shinran Shonin memorial service
6/28	Sat	11 am	Recitation circle
6/29	Sun	10 am	Sunday service

JULY 2014

7/6	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki memorial service & Sunday school
7/6	Sun	12 pm	Family portrait sitting
7/8	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/10	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
7/12	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
7/13	Sun	10 am	Obon/Hatsubon service
7/13	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
7/15	Tue	7 pm	O-ko: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
7/20	Sun	10 am	Sunday service & Sunday school
7/20	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
7/22	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/22	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night
7/23	Tue	7 pm	Bon dance practice at Otani Center
7/25	Fri	7 pm	Bon dance (Manto-e service at 6:30 pm)
7/26	Sat	7 pm	Bon dance (Manto-e service at 6:30 pm)
7/27	Sun	10 am	Bon dance cleanup (No Sunday service)
7/28	Mon	10 am	Shinran Shonin memorial service
7/28	Mon	11 am	Recitation circle

Everyone is welcome to join in on our sutra chanting at 7 am daily (except Sundays & 28th day of the month) in the Betsuin Main Hall.