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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

10
October 2015

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

ON LIVING LIFE B-I-I-G!

Edmund Nakano

Ed Nakano, Betsuin treasurer and board member for the past 24 years, was our lay speaker for the Sept. 27 Sunday service. Here is a transcript of his message on his quest to overcome challenges, passing values on and achieving balance in life.

My Issei paternal and maternal grandparents immigrated from Fukuoka and Kumamoto, Japan, respectively, to work on the Hakalau and Honomu plantations. Both of my Nisei parents were raised in these plantation villages and were members of large families, with my dad being the eldest of six children and my mom the second eldest of five.

Being the elder children, they were required to help support their large, financially strapped families and went to work after completing 8th grade. My mom was shortchanged in her education because she was intelligent enough to skip a grade and complete the minimum required education in seven years. Had she continued her education, I'm sure she would have had better employment opportunities. Their younger siblings, however, were able to obtain higher education and take advantage of more financially rewarding employment opportunities because of the sacrifices my parents made for them.



Ed Nakano

Lifelong values I learned from my Nisei parents while growing up in Hilo

My parents compensated for their financial hardships and lack of education with a strong work ethic and resilience: both values I cherish and live by. They also preached to me to place a high value on education and to embrace a lifelong learning attitude.

My father worked as a carpenter, painter, construction laborer and retired as a State of Hawaii highway maintenance person. He was a workaholic, often working various jobs seven days a week. This was the work-to-live ethic, which many of us baby boomers live by. My mom was, for most of her career, a housewife since her poor health did not allow her to maintain steady employment.

Our family's lifestyle was simple, and living frugally, we managed to survive. My mom told me that we probably were eligible for, but she was too embarrassed to seek, welfare assistance. To give you an idea of where our family's socio-economic status was, I will use Maslov's Hierarchy of Needs to illustrate. Picture a triangle where the Food and Water stage is at the bottom of the triangle. The socio-economic stages of the triangle progresses upwards to levels of Safety, Love, Self Esteem and ends with Self Actualization at the top. Although we owned our home, relative to our neighbors, our family socio-economic status was slightly above the Food and Water stage.

We were fortunate to live in a Hilo upper middle-class neighborhood across the Hilo Higashi Hongwanji temple, where our neighbors were very understanding and supportive to our family. I knew that we were definitely the poorest in this upper middle-class neighborhood since we initially had no car, telephone and TV when everyone else did. In spite of these limited resources and challenges, I never was envious of my neighbors.

Given these humbling growing up experiences, I have strived all my life to ensure that my own family will enjoy a better life through embracing the values of hard work, resilience, lifelong learning and family support.

My strong work ethic began when I delivered the *Honolulu Advertiser* on a bicycle from 6th through 9th grade with my partner, waking up at 5 am, 365 days a year. While in high school, I worked part time as a janitor, delivery person and typewriter repairman at the Moses Company, where Betsuin board member Jonathan Tani and his mother also worked. I also worked as a bag boy at Food Fair Super Market.

(cont'd on p. 2)

Making a Positive Difference

During my 2nd semester at UH-Hilo while pursuing an Education degree and in good academic standing, several of my college classmates and I decided to join the Hawaii Army National Guard (HARNG) to avoid being drafted and earn part-time income. During our 3rd semester at UH-Hilo, after returning from Basic & Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Ord, CA (first time I traveled to the mainland) the HARNG 29th Brigade was activated. My original Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) was an infantryman, which was basically to fight and kill. However, since I had several semesters of college education, multi-skilled with an attitude to learn, I was sent to small arms repairman school, graduated with honors and had my MOS changed to what at that time was called an armorer. I was soon sent to Vietnam, stationed at a relatively safe and well-protected ammunition depot in Qui Nhon. I was able to return to Hawaii quickly due to an "early out" and good student standing program and continued my college education at UH-Manoa with the assistance of the GI Bill.

When I returned to UH-Manoa in 1969, there were very few employment opportunities for teachers. With guidance from my uncle in Hilo, who was an accountant, and several high school classmates who were accounting graduates at UH-Manoa, I decided to pursue a degree in Accounting. I was wisely advised by my UH classmates that excellent grades were required to be hired by the top "Big Eight" national CPA firms. Heeding the advice—and for the first time since the 6th grade not having to work due to the financial assistance from the GI Bill.—I was determined to study hard and obtain the best grades possible.

I became a nerd and dedicated myself to study diligently and only obtain good grades during my last three years in college. In the difficult and competitive field of accounting and with minimal academic and career guidance from my family, through hard work, dedication to study and learn, I was on the Dean's List at the University of Hawaii for six of my last semesters and graduated with a 3.8 GPA in Accounting.

In 1972 I was hired as an auditor at a "Big Eight" international CPA firm, Coopers & Lybrand, which hired only the top 2% of accounting graduates. I was driven, worked hard, promoted rapidly, took on many challenging and tough assignments others did not want and achieved my initial career goal of receiving a CPA certificate in 1974.

Becoming a CPA in 1974 and gaining valuable knowledge and experience at Coopers & Lybrand brought me to my current employer of 37 years, C. S. Wo & Sons, Ltd., as Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer. I am truly fortunate to be a member of a successful 3rd-generation team of well-educated and forward-thinking owners of a 109-year-old family business with \$70 million in annual revenues. My work responsibilities includes executive management of the accounting, human resources, information technology and inventory control functions. I am also personally involved with most legal, property management, property, casualty and life insurance and investment matters.

I am also blessed that my health has been good, am continuing to learn and enjoying this journey of making a positive difference by sharing my knowledge and

experience with my employer, its employees, my family and with the Betsuin.

Living a Balanced Lifestyle while Sharing Values I Learned

Although having to directly and indirectly care for my parents for nearly 25 years until their passing, assisting my wife through two serious health challenges with cancer, maintaining a 50- to 60-hour workweek schedule, providing volunteer community service as Betsuin treasurer and a board member for the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants, among other community activities, our family relationship with my wife and two daughters remains strong. While we don't agree on everything, we agree to share family activities, help each other, continue to be good citizens and be the best that we can be. We have a comfortable lifestyle and home, travel occasionally and enjoy casual dining at local restaurants.

I am also able to find time to play in the Meija Fast Pitch Softball league six months of the year for the past eight years and enjoy my other passion, which is to attend weekly karaoke classes. I am also proud to note that my two daughters attended public schools, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Aiea High School, both graduated from UH-Manoa with Accounting degrees, and both have their MBAs.

My older daughter graduated with honors from the UH undergraduate and MBA programs and younger daughter graduated with honors from the HPU graduate program. My oldest daughter is a CPA and worked six years as an auditor at my former employer, known today as PricewaterhouseCoopers. She is now working as a controller for United Laundry. My youngest daughter is currently working as an accountant at the City & County of Honolulu Treasury Department. My older daughter and her husband have two sons, whom we all cherish and enjoy.

(cont'd on p. 4)



Ed delights New Year party attendees with a karaoke song.



From left, Daughter Kelly, Ed and wife, Diane, daughter Kristi Saiki, grandson Trevor Saiki & son-in-law, Landon Saiki. Inset: Trevor with Conner Saiki.



The Inouye sculpture, "Hawaii," is prominently displayed on the wall in the Betsuin's nokotsudo.

Artwork dedication service held at Betsuin columbarium

A ceramic sculpture entitled, "Hawaii," by the late Higashi Hongwanji minister Rev. Shugen Inouye, was dedicated at a short service held in the columbarium on Sept. 6, immediately following the regular Sunday service.

The art piece was gifted to the Betsuin last year by Irene Muramoto and her late husband, Paul.

The sculpture was created by Rev. Inouye, a Kyoto native and graduate of Farrington High School with a master's degree from the University of Hawaii. Rev. Inouye was a recognized ceramics instructor and pottery maker in addition to serving as a minister at the Betsuin.

Between 1961 and 1963, Rev. Inouye's pottery was exhibited at seven shows in Hawaii, California and New York, including a one-man



Irene Muramoto and Faye Shigemura at the dedication ceremony for the "Hawaii" sculpture.

exhibition at New York's Museum of Contemporary Crafts between September and November of 1963. Another was scheduled for May 1964 in Detroit, Michigan, but was canceled due to his untimely death at age 29.

October movie 'Spirited Away' is most successful Japanese film ever

Box office smash hit *Spirited Away* is a 2001 Japanese animated fantasy film directed by Hayao Miyazaki. It tells the story of 10-year-old Chihiro Ogino, who, while moving to a new neighborhood, enters the spirit world. After her parents are transformed into pigs by the witch Yubaba, Chihiro takes a job working in Yubaba's bathhouse to find a way to free herself and her parents and return to the human world.

The film won a U.S. Academy Award for Best Animated Film, Japan Academy Award for Best Picture and a Golden Bear in Berlin for Best Picture, among dozens of other awards.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Oct. 27, 125 min.. Free admission. Bring your own popcorn or you're welcome to share in our light refreshments.

千と千尋の神隠し・「せんとちひろのかみかくし」は、スタジオジブリの長編アニメーション映画。監督は宮崎駿。2001年7月20日に日本公開。興行収入300億円を超えた日本歴代興行収入第1位の大ヒット作品である。

10歳の女の子、千尋は、無愛想でちょっとだるそうな、典型的な現代っ子。両親とともに車で引越先の家へと向かう途中に、いつの間にか迷い込んだ「不思議

の町」。町の屋台にあった料理を勝手に食べた両親は、豚に姿をかえられてしまう。ひとりぼっちになってしまった千尋は、「千尋」という名を奪われ「千」と呼ばれながら、生き残るためにその町を支配する強欲な魔女・湯婆婆の下で働き始める。湯屋とは、この日本に棲むいろんな神様やお化けが疲れと傷を癒しに通うお風呂屋さんのこと。そこで、千尋は怪しい神様やお化けに交じって生まれて初めて懸命に働く。ハクや河の神などと出会い、様々な経験とふれあいを重ねるうちに、千尋は徐々に成長していく。

受賞：第25回日本アカデミー賞 最優秀作品賞、会長功労賞、協会特別賞（主題歌）、第75回米国アカデミー賞 アカデミー長編アニメ映画賞、第52回ベルリン国際映画祭 金熊賞、その他。

言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：125分、10月27日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



Mrs. Nonaka is congratulated by UJSH President Cyrus Tamashiro and 2015 Cherry Blossom Queen Kimberley Takata at the Senior Citizens Festival.

Nonaka reaches 80th milestone

At the annual Senior Citizens Festival held by the United Japanese Society of Hawaii at the Manoa Grand Ballroom, Betsuin member Atsuko Nonaka was among 31 local Nikkei honorees from UJSH member organizations attaining the age of 80 this year.

She gave a thank you message on behalf of all the honorees and was also part of the entertainment program with her minyo group, Harada NaoAtsusa Kai.

On hand from the Betsuin at the Sept. 27 festival luncheon to present her with lei and congratulations were Faye Shigemura and Ken Saiki.

When I was a small kid and left food on my plate, my mom always used to say, "Mottainai! You have to eat up all your food. If you don't, you're wasting food. Mottainai!"

When we eat something, whether it's a vegetable, fish, or animal, whatever we eat sacrificed its life for us. If we don't finish our food, we waste their sacrifice. We should not waste food that we receive. We also don't want to waste our time and our life, too. So don't forget the spirit of *mottainai*.

One of the Issei ladies I know always used to say, "Mottainai no, Namu Amida Butsu" and "Arigatai no, Namu Amida Butsu."

Mottainai has two meanings. The *mottainai* we use in general terms means "wasteful." *Mottainai* also translates into "I do not deserve this opportunity, or I don't deserve to receive it," which expresses

mottainai
もったいない

appreciation, similar to *arigato*, or "thank you."

Therefore, my mom always said, "Mottainai", whenever I left something on my plate at the dinner. When she found just one grain of rice in my *chawan* bowl, she said, "Mottainai" and "Eat it!"

Remembering these words, I still feel guilt when I leave food on my plate at restaurants or at the dinner table at home. I still hear the nagging voice of my mother, saying, "Mottainai, you are wasting food."

The word *arigatai* comes from *aru*, which means "to be," or "being." The second part, *gatai*, or *katai*,

means "hard." In other words, "It is very hard to be."

It is very hard to receive a human form or this life. It is very hard to have a chance meeting with your friend. It is very fortunate to have everything you experience. *Arigatai* is an expression of our gratitude.

That's why the Issei lady said, "Arigatai no, Namu Amida Butsu" at the temple, because she felt that it is very hard to be at the temple and listen to Buddha's teaching there. For her it was very fortunate to be at the temple. She was expressing gratitude for every condition that allowed her to be there and brought Buddha's teaching to her.

So we can use *arigatai* and *mottainai* for anything when you express your gratitude. This expression then is essentially the same as *Namu Amida Butsu*.

— Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

ON LIVING LIFE B-I-I-G (cont'd from p. 2)

The challenge to balance work and family activities continues and I feel that we are working diligently together as a family to achieve those goals. Although my daughters are very busy with their careers and family, they also find time to assist me in Betsuin activities such as during obon and other fundraising activities.

If there was one thing I could do over again, I would have made an effort to learn to develop stronger people relationships at an early age since I was shy and introverted. Through my work experience the past 43 years, I observed how effective others were when they had the interpersonal skills to engage with all types of people. Working with my positive influencing peers and mentors who had these skills throughout my business career, I have learned and still am learning to become an effective, engaging person and leader.

As a youth, I enjoyed being able to be in an environment that I could use all the skills I had, given my limited tangible and financial resources. I am fortunate that I was somewhat better than average academically and in art, music, several sports and with supportive and understanding neighbors, friends and a positive external environment to utilize my skills, was able to participate and enjoy in these activities. These experiences were personally fulfilling, fostered my self esteem, made me feel that I did the best I could with what I had and helped me endure the financial and family hardships during my early childhood.

If I had to describe myself in one sentence, I would say resourceful, hard working, resilient, driven, always desiring to learn and doing my best, striving to make a positive difference, sharing my knowledge and skills

with others willing to use them.

My advice to others would be: always do your best, treat others with dignity and respect and treat them how they want to be treated. Take pride in what you do, don't be afraid to make mistakes and learn from them and always have a positive attitude and with a lifelong quest for learning. Be humble, take care of your family, friends and co-workers and they will support you.

Finally, practice the Buddhist **Four Marks of Existence: Life is B-I-I-G.**

- **Life is B = a BUMPY** road, and therefore, you need to have a positive attitude and be resilient.
- **Life is I=IMPERMANENT**, and therefore, you need to live life to its fullest daily in a positive manner since, as we are reminded in Rennyō Shōnin's "White Ashes" letter, we could be gone tomorrow.
- **Life is I=INTERDEPENDENT**, where we need to work with and help others to live and function harmoniously as a team. This is the "I" that has made the most impact in my life journey. I am very fortunate to have many family, friends, former neighbors, teachers, co-workers and mentors who have all contributed to my fulfilling and learning life journey, where I am able to now give back by sharing my knowledge and experiences with others, a form of Self Actualization. It's a very satisfying experience for me, especially since early in my life, I was on the receiving end while living slightly above the Food and Water stage.
- **Life is G=GOOD** if you are able to live the B, I and I effectively.

So let's all **LIVE LIFE B-I-I-G!**



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2015

10/4 Sun 10 am	Eitaikyo/Perpetual memorial service Shōtsuki memorial service (Rinban Kawawata) & Sunday school
10/4 Sun 12 pm	Jimmy's Car Care class led by Jim Hirakawa
10/8 Thu 7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
10/10 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
10/11 Sun 10 am	Sunday service
10/11 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
10/11 Sun 12 pm	Art of Paper Crafting class led by Jeanne Kawawata at Otani Center
10/13 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele practice
10/18 Sun 10 am	Sunday service
10/18 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
10/20 Tue 7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
10/25 Sun 10 am	Hō-on-kō service at Kaneohe temple (no service at Betsuin)
10/27 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele practice
10/27 Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Spirited Away</i>
10/28 Wed 10 am	Onicchu Shinran Shonin service

NOVEMBER 2015

11/1 Sun 10 am	Hō-on-kō service at Palolo temple (no service at Betsuin)
11/8 Sun 10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service (Rinban Kawawata) Sunday school
11/8 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
11/10 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele practice
11/12 Thu 7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
11/14 Sat 1 pm	Ho-on-ko gathering followed by dinner and evening service
11/15 Sun 10 am	Hō-on-kō service at Betsuin
11/16 Tue 7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
11/21 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
11/22 Sun 10 am	Sunday service
11/22 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
11/22 Sun 12 pm	Art of Paper Crafting class led by Jeanne Kawawata at Otani Center
11/24 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele practice
11/24 Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: TBA
11/28 Sat 10 am	Onicchu Shinran Shonin service
11/29 Sun 10 am	Sunday service

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.