Am I Addicted to IT?
Rinban Ken Kawawata

This month is the month of Ho-on-ko. As you know, Ho-on-ko is a memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin, who died on Nov. 28, 1226, in Kyoto, Japan. Ho-on-ko is time for us to come to sit in front of our teacher, Shinran Shonin, and listen earnestly to his teachings and re-examine our lives according to his words and his life.

Through the teaching of Shinran Shonin and Buddha dharma, we find out and see truth and true life. Ho-on-ko is the time to re-examine what we really depend on in our everyday lives.

Nowadays, computers and the Internet have become necessities in our daily lives. I could say anywhere we go, embrace IT, or information technologies.

The other day, on my day off, my family and I went to the beach. For directions to get to the beach I used GPS, which is IT. After that we went shopping and when we were making our purchases, the cashier used an electronic cash register, which is IT. I was asked, "Would you like your receipt printed or sent by email?" Imagine, instead I can have my receipt sent to my email instead of getting an old-fashioned paper receipt. How IT is that?

After shopping, my son wanted to eat sushi, and we went to a kaiten-sushi place where the sushi goes around on a conveyor belt. There, you can order your sushi using a touch-screen tablet. And your sushi is automatically delivered to you by a miniature bullet express train. All courtesy of IT.

There you can eat sushi at a reasonable price and it is very easy to get to. That's probably why many young people and families go there. While waiting to be seated, some people were talking with family members and friends. Many others were using their smartphones to play games, check and send messages or search for information.

When I see people constantly using their smartphones, I really wonder, is it OK to use them all the time like that? At Starbucks many customers use a mobile device or laptop computer while seated at a table. People may be sitting together, but they're not talking. Some young people say, "Oh, we're talking through text messages," I was shocked to hear that! Don't they use their voices anymore? They may not say, "I love you." That's their life. They can't think about living without a smartphone or computer. Not being in the same generation, I have to ask, "Is that their normal life?"

Sometimes, however, I feel myself am suffering from IT addiction. I have an urge to open my email and want to see the latest news from Japan. I really depend on information from the Internet. Having a cellular phone is just like having a chain and a collar. Everywhere you go, somebody is holding your chain. In my case, my (cont'd on p.2)

In this issue of WA...

- Am I Addicted to IT? p. 1
- Little Differences: Thanksgiving p. 2
- News on the Betsuin Wireless p. 3
- Rev. Kikuchi welcomed p. 3
- November movie: Zen p. 3
- Omigaki help needed 11/8 p. 3
- Saiki receives Bridge Award p. 3
- Betsuin Ho-on-ko service p. 4
- Acknowledgments p. 5
- November shotsuki listing p. 5
- Temple activities calendar p. 6

Temple Activities Calendar

November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Sun 10 am Hō-on-ko service at Palolo temple</td>
<td>(no service at Betsuin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Sun 10 am Shōtsuki memorial service/Sunday school</td>
<td>(Rinban Kawawata)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Tue 3 pm Ukulele practice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Thu 7 pm ABCs of Buddhism study class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Sat 1 pm Ho-on-ko gathering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Sun 10 am What on Earth is Namuamidabutsu?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Thu 7 pm O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Sat 10 am Art of Paper Crafting class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>Sun 12 pm Betsuin board meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>Sun 12 pm Art of Paper Crafting class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>Tue 3 pm Movie night: Still Walking (2008)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>Tue 6:30 pm Movie night: Zen  (2009)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Sat 10 am Onichu Shinnon Shonin service</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Sun 10 am Sunday service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Sun 12 pm Basic Buddhism study class</td>
<td></td>
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December 2015

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Sun 10 am BBC Bodhi Day service - Honpa Hongwanji</td>
<td>(no service at Betsuin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Tue 3 pm Ukulele class/band practice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>Thu 7 pm ABCs of Buddhism study class</td>
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<td>12/13</td>
<td>Sun 10 am Betsuin Bodhi Day service</td>
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<td>12/22</td>
<td>Tue 9 am Annual temple cleaning (大掃除)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/27</td>
<td>Sun 8 am Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning Mochi-pounding (no Sunday service)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/28</td>
<td>Sat 9 am Shinran Shonin memorial service Year-end service (Joy-e)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Fri 10am New Year service (Shuzo-e)</td>
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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.
As we look forward to a traditional turkey dinner on Thanksgiving Day, the 4th Thursday in November, did you know that Thanksgiving is also a national holiday in Japan, although celebrated on November 23? "Hey, wait a minute. How can that be?" you may be wondering. Didn’t Mrs. Peterson at Lincoln School tell us the story of how Thanksgiving began, when the Pilgrim settlers and the original American Indians decided to bury the hatchet, so to speak, and celebrated the bountiful harvest together with a big outdoor feast?

I remember the textbook with colorful illustrations of Pilgrims, with tall black hats adorned with a sily belt buckle, mingling with body-painted Indians gathered around the table—yes, half-naked braves in mid-November...in New England, yet—sharing in a feast of turkey and all the trimmings, cranberries, yams, pumpkin pie and umm, green bean casserole. Did Japanese Thanksgiving have a similar beginning, with Puritans landing at somewhere like “Toyota Rock”?

Well, it turns out that Japan didn’t have very many Pilgrims as settlers, or half-naked Native Americans or even turkeys, for that matter. Japan’s November 23 harvest celebration became Labor Thanksgiving Day or Kin no Kansha no Hi(Thanksgiving Day, or Labor Thanksgiving Day, or Kin no Kansha no Hi), which you switch out with November 23 being set as the official date for the event during Emperor Meiji’s reign.

Following the cessation of hostilities in World War II, changes to Japan’s constitution guaranteed fundamental human rights and greatly expanded rights of workers. The November 23 harvest celebration became Labor Thanksgiving Day holiday in appreciation of the contributions of labor and an expression of gratitude for everyone’s cooperative hard work and productivity. Now only the Imperial family celebrates niinamesai as a private ceremony.

It wasn’t too long ago when people in Japan wanting to celebrate Thanksgiving the traditional American way had a difficult time locating a turkey to roast. Turkey meat doesn’t appear very often in Japanese dishes.

Today, with the proliferation of Costco superstores and large supermarket chains, finding a bird is not so much a problem any more, at least not in major metropolitan areas. The bigger problem perhaps is having an oven large enough, as an “oven” in most Japanese homes is a toaster oven (“oven tosuta”) or a multi-function microwave oven (“denchi rennji”), which you switch off the microwave function and use the “oven” mode.

Whether you celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday Japanese style or the American way, it’s really about the same thing. At this time of year, we express our gratitude for the generous bounty we receive from nature and work done well by the people all around us. We are all interconnected, mutually interdependent beings who rely on each other...in the past, present and future.

So here’s wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving holiday! — Ken Saiki
“Awakening to Your Deepest Wish”

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2015
Time: 1:00 pm — 4:30 pm
Place: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 531-9088 • Fax: (808) 531-3265 • Email: betsuin@hhbt-hi.org
Fee: $10.00 (payable to Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)

A warm welcome goes out to our new resident minister, Rev. Koen Kikuchi, who arrived in Hawaii on Oct. 14 to take over the duties of Rev. Makoto Honda, who returned to Japan last December.

A native of Akita prefecture, Rev. Kikuchi polished his English-speaking skills during a year in Malta, a former British Commonwealth island nation in the Mediterranean.

Rev. Kikuchi is an avid sportsman, and especially enjoys playing soccer, baseball and basketball. He also plays the shō, a bamboo wind instrument used in gagaku court music. He and his wife, Mai, have three children, son Ren (6) and daughters Kokoro (3) and Hana (2).

We’ll have an expanded feature story on Rev. Kikuchi and his family in our November magazine. We’ll have an expanded feature story on Rev. Kikuchi and his family in an upcoming issue of the magazine.

November’s movie feature: Zen
Zen Buddhist teacher Dogen Zenji (1200-1253)—a contemporary of Shinran Shonin (1173-1262)—was an important philosopher during the Kamakura period. After his mother died, he decided to move to China and settle as a Buddhist teacher. One bright morning, enlightened, Zenji returns to Japan as a devoted evangelist of a new Soto school of Buddhism. However, this “new” form of Buddhism was not accepted in all communities. (Note: The new Jodo Shinshu sect faced similar suppression during this period.)

Besides being a serious film on Buddhism, this 2009 release is a cinematographic delight, starring noted kabuki actor, Kantarou Nakamura, with co-star Yuki Uchida. The Japan Times rated the movie #4.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Nov. 23, 127 min. Free admission. Bring your own popcorn or feel free to share the light refreshments provided.

Omigaki help needed Nov. 8
As you know, the Ho-on-ko memorial service of Shinran Shonin is one of the most important observances we hold each year.

We’d like to see our hondo altar implements at their gleaming best for our Ho-on-ko gathering on Saturday Nov. 14 and our Betsuin Ho-on-ko service the following day.

We’re seeking your kokua in polishing the various altar decorations following refreshments after Sunday service on Nov. 8.

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Group omigaki is actually fun!

Saki receives JASH Bridge Award
Betsuin board member Ken Saiki was presented with the 2015 Bridge Award by the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) on Sept. 24 at its annual recognition dinner at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Saki was recognized for his efforts in coordinating weekly maintenance of the Ehime Maru Memorial for the past 13 years and helping to foster better relations between the U.S. and Japan in the aftermath of the collision between a U.S. submarine and the fisheries training vessel Ehime Maru in 2001. The accident resulted in the deaths of nine aboard the Japanese ship.

Higashi Hongwanji volunteers have been cleaning the memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park twice a year for the past several years as a way to give back to the community we serve.

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"Awakening to Your Deepest Wish"

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2015
Time: 1:00 pm — 4:30 pm
Place: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu

Speaker: Rev. Noriaki Fujimori

Rev. Noriaki Fujimori was born in 1958 in Hokkaido, Japan, where indigenous Ainu people live. In 1988, he was sent to South and North America to study Higashi Hongwanji missionary work. In 1989, he became a member of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists and visited many Southeast Asian countries to attend meetings and learn how to practice Buddhism. In 1992, he was assigned as resident minister at Waimaia Higashi Hongwanji, where a hurricane had totally destroyed the temple three months earlier. Through the experience, he started environmental programs to live in an environmentally friendly society. One of the goals was to install a natural energy system at the temple. Through the support of Dharma friends, the temple now has a photovoltaic system. He started an exchange program with Ainu with temple and community members, native Hawaiians and a friend of the temple in Hokkaido. In 2013, he was assigned to Palolo Hongwanji as resident minister. He has enjoyed starting cleaning, gardening, art and other programs with members and community friends.

For more information, please contact:
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 531-9088 • Fax: (808) 531-3265 • Email: betsuin@hhbt-hi.org

Fee: $10.00 (payable to Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)
A light dinner will be served following the day’s program.

YES, I would like to participate in the Hoonko Gathering 2015.

Name: __________________________________________ Phone: __________________________
Name: __________________________________________ Email: __________________________
Address: __________________________________________ Email: __________________________

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He and his wife, Mai, have three children, Ren (6) and daughters Koko (3) and Hana (2).

We’ll have an expanded feature story on Rev. Kikuchi and his family in an upcoming issue of Wa, so you can read more about them.

Meanwhile, keep an eye out for attending our Ho-on-ko Gathering on Nov. 14 and our Betsuin Wireless on Nov. 20. Those who have attended our events in the past say they once more have provided an excellent kohaku aza to the kohaku sho and a great time for the community.

Next year, keep your eyes open for the announcement of the 2016 Ho-on-ko Gathering and the 2016 Betsuin Wireless.

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Rev. Noriaki Fujimori

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Ken & Lamika Saki (both are congratulated by Gov. and Mrs. Ige at the Sept. 24 JASH banquet) which was attended by more than 430 guests.

Kakaako Waterfront Park twice a year for the past several years as a way to give back to the community we serve.

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Rev. Noriaki Fujimori
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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2015

11/1 Sun 10 am 12/6 Sun 10 am
Hō-on-ko service at Palolo temple (no service at Betsuin) Hō-on-ko service at Betsuin Temple

11/8 Sun 10 am 12/8 Tue 3 pm
Shōtsuki memorial service/Sunday school ABCs of Buddhism study class
led by Rinban Kawawata in English led by Rev. Frank Childs

11/8 Sun 12 pm 12/12 Sat 10 am
Omigaki Polishing altar implements Ukulele class/band practice

11/10 Tue 3 pm 12/12/7 pm
Ukulele practice ABCs of Buddhism study class
led by Rinban Kawawata in English
led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese

11/12 Thu 7 pm 12/13 Sun 10 am
ABCs of Buddhism study class Betsuin Bodhi Day service
led by Rinban Kawawata in English led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese

11/14 Sat 1 pm 12/13 Sun 12 pm
Ho-on-ko gathering Basic Buddhism study class
followed by dinner and evening service led by Rinban Kawawata in English

11/15 Sun 10 am 12/13 Sun 12 pm
Hō-on-ko service at Betsuin Art of Paper Crafting class
O-ko: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe

11/17 Tue 7 pm 12/15 Tue 7 pm
O-ko: Dharma discussion at Betsuin Art of Paper Crafting class

11/21 Sat 10 am 12/20 Sun 10 am
Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?

11/22 Sun 10 am 12/20 Sun 12 pm
Betsuin board meeting Betsuin board meeting

11/22 Sun 12 pm 12/22 Tue 3 pm
Betsuin board meeting Ukulele class/band practice

11/22 Sun 12 pm 12/22 Tue 6:30 pm
Art of Paper Crafting class Movie night: Still Walking (2008)
led by Jeanne Kawawata at Otani Center led by Rev. Frank Childs

11/24 Tue 3 pm 12/28 Sat 9 am
Ukulele practice Annual temple cleaning (大掃除)

11/24 Tue 6:30 pm 12/27 Sun 8 am
Movie night: Zen 禅 led by Jeanne Kawawata at Otani Center (2009)

11/28 Sat 10 am 12/28 Mon 10 am
Onicchu Shinran Shonin service Shirin Shonin memorial service

11/28 Sun 10 am 12/31 Tue 5 pm
Sunday service Year-end service (Joye-a)

11/29 Sun 12 pm 1/1 Fri 10am
Basic Buddhism study class New Year service (Shuzo-e)
led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese led by Rinban Kawawata in English

DECEMBER 2015

12/5 Sun 10 am 12/26 Sun 10 am
HBC Bodhi Day service - Honpa Hongwanji (no service at Betsuin) Hō-on-ko service at Betsuin Temple

12/8 Tue 3 pm 12/12/7 pm
ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English ABCs of Buddhism study class
led by Rev. Frank Childs led by Rinban Kawawata in English

12/10 Thu 3 pm 1/1 Fri 10am
ABCs of Buddhism study class New Year service (Shuzo-e)
led by Rev. Frank Childs led by Rinban Kawawata in English

12/15 Tue 7 pm 12/31 Thu 5 pm
Annual temple cleaning (大掃除) O-ko: Memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin

12/17 Sat 7 pm 12/31 Thu 5 pm
ABCs of Buddhism study class O-ko: Memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin

12/17 Sat 10 am 12/31 Thu 5 pm
HAMU service at Otani Center O-ko: Memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin

12/22 Tue 6:30 pm 12/31 Thu 5 pm

12/22 Tue 9 am 12/31 Thu 5 pm
Art of Paper Crafting class O-ko: Memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin

12/27 Sun 8 am 12/31 Thu 5 pm
Shōtsuki memorial service Shirin Shonin memorial service

12/28 Mon 10 am 12/31 Thu 5 pm
Year-end service (Joye-a) Year-end service (Joye-a)

12/31 Thu 10 am 12/31 Thu 5 pm
O-ko: Memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin O-ko: Memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin

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.

Am I Addicted to IT?
Rinban Kenju Kawawata

This month is the month of Ho-on-ko. As you know, Ho-on-ko is a memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin, who died on Nov. 28, 1226, in Kyoto, Japan. Ho-on-ko is time for us to come to sit in front of our teacher, Shinran Shonin, and listen earnestly to his teachings and re-examine our lives according to his words and his life. Through the teaching of Shinran Shonin and Buddha dharma, we find out and see truth and true life. Ho-on-ko is the time to re-examine what we really depend on in our everyday lives.

Nowadays, computers and the Internet have become necessities in our daily lives. I could say anywhere we go, we embrace IT, or information technologies. The other day, on my day off, my family and I went to the beach. For directions to get to the beach I used GPS, which is IT. After that we went shopping and when we were making our purchases, the cashier used an electronic cash register, which is IT. I was asked, “Would you like your receipt printed or sent by email?” Imagine, I can have my receipt sent to my email instead of getting an old-fashioned paper receipt. How IT is that?

After shopping, my son wanted to eat sushi, and we went to a kaiten-sushi place where the sushi goes around on a conveyor belt. There, you can order your sushi using a touch-screen tablet. And your sushi is automatically delivered to you by a miniature bullet express train. All courtesy of IT.

There you can eat sushi at a reasonable price and it is very easy to get to. That’s probably why many young people and families go there. While waiting to be seated, some people were talking with family members and friends. Many others were using their smartphones to play games, check and send messages or search for information.

When I see people constantly using their smartphones, I really wonder, is it OK to use them all the time like that? At Starbucks many customers use a mobile device or laptop computer while seated at a table. People may be sitting together, but they’re not talking. Some young people say, “Oh, we’re talking through text messages.” I was shocked to hear that! Don’t they use their voices anymore? They may not say, “I love you.” That’s their life. They can’t think about living without a smartphone or computer. Not being in the same generation, I have to ask, “Is that their normal life?”

Sometimes, however, I feel I myself am suffering from IT addiction. I have an urge to open my email and want to see the latest news from Japan. I really depend on information from the Internet. Having a cellular phone is just like having a chain and a collar. Everywhere you go, somebody is holding your chain. In my case, my (cont’d on p. 2)