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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

November 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

AM I ADDICTED TO IT?

Rinban Kenjun 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 conveyer 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 companions. 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 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)



Rinban Ken Kawawata



AM I ADDICTED TO IT? (cont'd from p. 1)

wife and my work are holding my leash and are always watching me and have control of my life.



Source:Baselinemag.com

We embrace information technologies such as the Internet. No matter where we are, we can get any kind of information. I often feel that there is too much information and we

confuse what is "real" and what is "true."

So I think that sometimes we need to turn off our smartphones, have some quiet time just for ourselves and get away from IT addiction. I also think that we need to go back to the dharma, and see our own lives and this world from dharma eyes.

So on this occasion of Ho-on-ko, let's all listen to Shinran Shonin's teaching and re-examine our way of life. I hope you'll find some time and be able to join us for our Ho-on-ko Gathering on Nov. 14 and Ho-on-ko Service on Nov. 15.

Thank you in gassho,
Kenjun Kawawata

Little Differences: U.S. & Japan - Thanksgiving

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 Indian inhabitants 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 silly 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 Japan's Thanksgiving have a similar beginning, with Puritans landing at someplace 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 Thanksgiving Day is actually Labor Thanksgiving Day, or *Kinro Kansha no Hi*. It has its roots in an ancient ritual called *Niinamesai*, or Harvest Festival. In days of yore, the Emperor would make the season's first offering of freshly harvested rice to the gods and then have some himself. The ritual's origin is believed to go back some 2,000 years, when the Japanese first learned the technique of rice cultivation.

The festival was celebrated throughout Japan, 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 tosutaa*") 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





New minister Rev. Koen Kikuchi, center, was greeted by members at the Betsuin right after his arrival.

New Betsuin minister assigned

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 *sho*, 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 an upcoming issue of Wa, so you can learn more about them.

Meanwhile, be sure to drop by the temple sometime soon and share your aloha and good wishes with Rev. Kikuchi and his family.

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 ***½.

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

禪 (ぜん)

日本曹洞宗の開祖、道元の生涯を映画化した伝記ドラマ。主演は中村勘太郎、共演に内田有紀。

乱世の鎌倉時代。24歳の道元は、仏道の正師を求めて宋へと渡る。当初は、仏道の中にまで腐敗がはびこるさまを目の当たりにして失望する道元だったが、やがて正師と呼べる人物、如浄禪師と出会い、彼の下で修行を積む。そして、ついに悟りを開いた道元は帰国し、ひたすら弁道に精進し、禅宗の普及に励む。そんな彼の姿に次第に賛同者も現われ始める。

公開：2009、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：127分、11月23日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

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.

Whatever time you can contribute is much appreciated. We'll supply the latex gloves, polishing compound and cloths, while you give us a hand and a little bit of elbow grease.

Group *omigaki* is actually fun!

Saiki 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.

Saiki 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.



Ken & Kumiko Saiki (left) are congratulated by Gov. and Mrs. Ige at the Sept. 24 JASH banquet which was attended by more than 450 guests.

Higashi Honganji Hawaii District & Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
present

Ho-on-ko Gathering 2015

"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

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 Waimea 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:

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Fee: \$10.00 (payable to **Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**)

A light dinner will be served following the day's program.

..... Detach here and return

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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/Sunday school (Rinban Kawawata)
11/8 Sun 12 pm	Omigaki - Polishing altar implements
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
11/17 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: Zen 禪 (2009)
11/28 Sat 10 am	Onicchu Shinran Shonin service
11/29 Sun 10 am	Sunday service
11/29 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese

DECEMBER 2015

12/6 Sun 10 am	HBC Bodhi Day service - Honpa Hongwanji (no service at Betsuin)
12/8 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
12/10 Thu 7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
12/12 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
12/13 Sun 10 am	Betsuin Bodhi Day service
12/13 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
12/13 Sun 12 pm	Art of Paper Crafting class
12/15 Tue 7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
12/20 Sun 10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school
12/20 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
12/22 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
12/22 Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: Still Walking (2008)
12/28 Sat 9 am	Annual temple cleaning (大掃除) Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning
12/27 Sun 8 am	Mochi-pounding (no Sunday service)
12/28 Mon 10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
12/31 Thu 5 pm	Year-end service (Joya-e) <i>Toshi-koshi soba</i> served after service
1/1 Fri 10am	New Year service (Shusho-e) <i>Ozoni</i> served after 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.