

和

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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

5
May 2017

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

Rinban: Kenjun Kawawata
Minister: Koen Kikuchi

President: Faye Shigemura
Vice President: Jonathan Tani
Secretary: Debra Saiki
Treasurer: Edmund Nakano
Asst. Sec'y & Auditor: Ken Saiki

1685 Alaneo Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Tel: (808) 531-9088
Fax: (808) 531-3265
Email: betsuin@hhbt-hi.org

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

TANJO-E

A celebration of the birth of our founder,
Shinran Shonin

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

This month, we celebrate Tanjo-e, the birth of our denomination's founder, Shinran Shonin. *Tanjo* means "birth" and *e* means "gathering". So let's now think about our own birth.

The first line of The Three Treasures says, "Difficult is it to receive life in human form, now we are living it." However, we never think about our life in this way until we encounter the dharma.

It is difficult to receive human life and it is difficult to be born a human being. Just because are born human does not automatically make us into a human being.

Other animals, when they are born, can become an individual animal. When a deer is born, the baby deer stands up and walks within 30 or 45 minutes and he or she becomes a deer. Then they became adults in one to three years. Other animals are the same way. They learn how to survive in Nature through their parents and become adult much, much faster than human babies.

In the case of human beings, however, we do not automatically become a human like other animals. We require a long time to be a mature adult, a process taking at least 18 to 20 years. We need a long period of care and education to become a functioning adult. We don't become a human being just by being born human.

In 1920, two girls were discovered in the wild in India walking on their hands and feet. They were raised by a wolf. They walked like wolves and ate like wolves. They acted just like wolves.

The two girls were taken in by the villagers, who started to educate them as humans and gave them clothes and a room with bed, but the girls always slept on the floor. They could not use eating utensils but ate directly from bowls just like wolves.

The people who found them tried hard to educate the two girls and turn them into normal humans. However, the girls died before they become adults.

From this story, we could know that humans cannot easily become human beings, just by being born in human form. Human beings cannot be a human without education and discipline. We have to be taught to become human and become a human being.

Even though we become adults, we still need education for our whole lives, so that is why we come to the temple and have further education. If we forget our education for our whole lives, we go back toward being animals. The difference between animals and human beings is intelligence. We can also have wishes and aspirations for our lives. If we just seek a rich and convenient life, we just become animals driven by our own desires and greed. We will end up always wanting more than what we have and tend to become hungry ghosts or animals.

That's why it's important to have questions about our lives. Having questions means becoming a seeker who is always looking for the path of true life, to become like Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin. Seeking itself becomes our education and our whole lives turn into a classroom.

Therefore, I would like to invite you to our Tanjo-e service, the celebration of the birth of our founder, Shinran Shonin. I wish all of us will discover the meaning of birth and joy of living through this celebration.

Thank you in gassho,
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata



Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

THE LIFE OF SHINRAN

Shinran was born in 1173 in the village of Hino, near Uji, Kyoto as the first son of Fujiwara (Hino) Arinori. It was the time when the aristocratic Heian period (794-1185) was coming to an end and the age of the warrior was just beginning, as the Genji and Heike clans were fighting each other.

At the age of nine, Shinran received ordination at Shōren-in (a temple of the Tendai denomination) at Awataguchi (Higashiyama, Kyoto), with the name of Hannen and entered upon the Buddhist path. Later, he went to Mt. Hiei, the center of the Tendai denomination and single-mindedly devoted himself to

Buddhist studies. In spite of 20 years of such endeavors, Shinran could not find the way to overcome suffering and anxiety. In his turmoil, he secluded himself

in Rokkaku-dō temple (Kyoto)

and had a profound spiritual experience. As a result, he was able to meet Hōnen (1133-1212) who was then living in Yoshimizu at Higashiyama. There, Shinran encountered the teaching, "Just say the Nenbutsu, and be saved by Amida," and began to walk along the Nenbutsu Path of the Primal Vow. He was twenty-nine years old at that time.

Persecution

Many people gathered around Hōnen, regardless of differences in status and position. This, however, caused friction with the long-standing Buddhist establishments, and in 1207, Hōnen was exiled to Tosa province (present-day Kōchi prefecture), and his disciples were either sentenced to death or exiled. Shinran (35 years old) was exiled to Echigo province (present-day Niigata prefecture) with the secular name of Fujii Yoshizane. He never saw his teacher Hōnen again.

Sharing the Dharma

Taking his exile as an opportunity, Shinran resolved anew to live in the Nenbutsu teaching, and regarded himself as an "ignorant bald-headed disciple of the Buddha." He married Eshinni,

and while living among the local people, he shared the Nenbutsu teaching with them. Although he was pardoned five years later, Shinran, knowing of the death of Hōnen, did not return to Kyoto, but instead headed toward the Kantō area (the region, surrounding present-day Tokyo) with his family. Through living in such places as Shimotsuma, Kojima, and Inada (all in present-day Ibaraki prefecture), he shared the Nenbutsu teaching with many people.

Returning to Kyoto

After living in the Kantō area for about twenty years, Shinran, in his early sixties, returned to Kyoto. Just around that time, he finished compiling his major work, the Ken Jōdo Shinjitsu Kyōgyōshō Monrui (popularly known as Kyōgyōshinshō), which he had been working on for about ten years. Even without a permanent residence in Kyoto, he enthusiastically continued his writings, including the Songō Shinzō Meimon (The Inscription on the Sacred Name and Images) and the Sanjō Wasan (The Triple Hymns). He completed these writings to clarify and hand down the path he had encountered through Hōnen, so that all people could be saved equally together.

Further, through writing letters, Shinran continued to convey the Nenbutsu teaching to his fellow practitioners (dōgyō) in the Kantō area. At the same time, they visited him in Kyoto continuously, and he confirmed this teaching with them.

The Final Days of Shinran:

On November 28, 1262, Shinran's 90 years of life ended while his youngest daughter, Kakushinni, and his followers were caring for him. In spite of hardships, he lived life totally entrusting himself to Amida's Primal Vow and clarifying the true teaching of the Pure Land, through encountering his teacher, Hōnen.

Excerpted from the Higashi Honganji Shinshu Otani-ha (Kyoto) website higashihonganji.or.jp



A scene of Hōnen, being exiled to Tosa province.(Reprinted from the Honganji Shōnin Denne [The Life of Shinran], Kōei version. Property of Higashi Honganji)



The Konpon Chūdō of Enryakuji Temple on Mt. Hiei (Otsu, Shiga prefecture)



nanay mutter māe 母 makuahine madre

With Mother's Day coming up soon, let's talk about our mothers. What do—or did—you call your mother? Ma? Mom? Mama? Mommy? Mother? Edith?

Of course, the answer may depend on what point in your life we're talking about and the circumstances. Most school-age kids might be fine asking, "Mommy, what's for dinner?" at home but would probably refrain from calling out, "Mommy!" at school in front of their classmates.

What's the most popular name for mothers in the U.S.? No one really can say for sure. Apparently it depends on geography, family background, age, ethnicity and a person's mood when someone asks the question.

A survey in Japan among children younger than high school age found that about half call their mothers お母さん or "okaasan," while about 40% call them ママ or "mama." One could guess that the "mama" camp would be in the great majority among pre-school age kids.

I recall sitting in Toyo Theatre watching Okawa Hashizo addressing his mother as 母上, or "hahaue," which I thought was so cool. In the Edo period I'm told that "okaasama" and "kakasama" were used in the samurai society, while "okkasama" and "okka" by common people. The name "okaasan" was adopted in national textbooks in the late Meiji era.

When referring to your own mother to others, the proper term is 母, or "haha." Adult males commonly call their mothers お袋 or "ofukuro," which, although is the same "fukuro" as "bag" or "sack," has no derogatory connotation.

No matter what term you use, mothers have always had a special place in hearts of children everywhere. After all, who carried them for months, introduced them to the world and nurtured them until they could go on their own?

Now, thanks to the wonders of the Internet and in particular to Japanese site eStory Post, you can find wonderful tributes to mothers from all corners of the globe.

How's this from none other than George Washington: "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

母は、私が出会った女性の中で最も美しい人だ。今の私があるのは、すべて母のおかげ。私が人生で成し遂げたことは、母から受けた精神教育、知的教育、身体教育のおかげである。母は、私が出会った女性の中で最も美しい人だ。今の私があるのは、すべて母のおかげ。私が人生で成し遂げたことは、母から受けた精神教育、知的教育、身体教育のおかげである。—ジョージ・ワシントン

There's a story behind everything. Sometimes the stories are simple, and sometimes they are hard and heartbreakng. But behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begin.

—Mitch Albom

すべてのものごとの裏には物語がある。シンプルな物語もあれば、時には辛く胸を引き裂くような物語もある。だがそれらの物語の裏には、必ず母の物語がある。あなたの物語はそこから始まったのだから。—ミッチ・アルボム

I believe in love at first sight because I've been loving my mother since I opened my eyes." —Unknown
私は一目惚れを信じている。なぜなら、私は最初に目を開けた瞬間から、母を愛しているからだ。—不明

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.—
Jewish proverb

神はすべての場所にいるわけにはいかない。ゆえに神は母を創られた。

A man loves his sweetheart the most, his wife the best, but his mother the longest.—Irish proverb

男は、恋人を最も愛し、妻をいちばん愛す。だが、母を最も長く愛する。—アイルランドのことわざ

No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement.—Florida Scott Maxwell

母親はどれだけ年をとっても、中年になった子供たちの中に進歩の兆候を見いだそうとする。—フロリダ・スコット・マクスウェル

Anyone who doesn't miss the past never had a mother.—Gregory Nunn
過去を懐かしない人は、母親のいなかつただけである。—グレゴリー・ナン

**A mom's hug lasts long after she lets go.
母の抱擁は、彼女が放した。後もずっと続く。**

There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it.—
Chinese proverb

美しい子供は世界にたった一人しかいないが、すべての母親がその子を持っている。—中国のことわざ

All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his.—Oscar Wilde

すべての女性は彼女の母親に似るようになる。それが女の悲劇だ。男は彼の母親のままにならない。それが男の悲劇だ。
—オスカー・ワイルド

No gift to your mother can ever equal her gift to you – life. —Unknown

あなたが母に贈るどんなギフトも、母があなたに贈ったギフトにはとてもおよばない。それは命。—不明

Whether our mothers are still with us or not, let's not forget to show our appreciation and express our deepest gratitude for all they've done for us.

—Ken Saiki



Atsuko Nonaka pours sweet tea on the baby Buddha's statue at our Hanamatsuri service.

Members gather to observe Buddha Day at Hanamatsuri

At our Hanamatsuri service held April 9, Betsuin members and friends celebrated Shakyamuni Buddha's birth more than 2,500 years ago in Lumbini's Garden, located in southern Nepal.

The special hanamido altar with baby Buddha's statue was tastefully adorned with dendrobium and fern by the decorating team of Jeanne Kawawata, Debra Saiki, Joyce Masaki, Rev. Koen Kikuchi and Rev. Hidesato Kita.

Following selected readings, emcee Margaret Hamachi led attendees in the singing of the gatha, "In Lumbini's Garden," then directed attendees to the hanamido during the sutra chanting to offer sweet tea to the baby Buddha.

Rev. Koen Kikuchi delivered the dharma message.

After the service we adjourned to Otani Center for otoki and brought out the birthday cake for April babies Shakyamuni Buddha, Dennis Saiki and Kevin Kawawata. A rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" in their honor could be heard throughout the temple grounds.



For Mother's Day, start planning your dishes for after-service otoki

Our Betsuin tradition is for the men to prepare lunch to serve after our Mother's Day family service.

So all you men, here's your official notice: Mother's Day is May 14 and you'd better start thinking of what you plan to bring. It might be a good idea to huddle with the other men before then so that not everyone is preparing the same thing.

If you plan to buy your way out of your duty, try not to all show up with red-and-white striped buckets.

And don't forget that the kitchen needs to be cleaned afterwards, too!

May movie, *Kabei: Our Mother, an ode to mothers everywhere*

This 2008 tear-jerker with a star-studded cast directed by Yoji Yamada is our tribute to mothers throughout the world, honoring their innate love for their children.

Tokyo, 1940. Kayo Nogami (Sayuri Yoshinaga), lives with her university professor husband Shigeru (Matsugoro Bando) and two daughters, Hatsu (Mirai Shida/Chieko Baisho as adult) and Terumi (Miku Sato/Keiko Toda as adult).

Then one day the happy family of "Kabei," "Tobei," "Hatsubei" and "Terubei" face a sudden calamity. With war raging in China, Shigeru is arrested for his anti-war writings, which changes the lives of the family forever.

Meanwhile, Shigeru's former student Yamazaki (Tadanobu Asano) and sister Hisako (Rei Dan), uncle Senkichi (Shofukutei Tsurube) and others rush to the family to support Kayo and her daughters.

The movie garnered Excellence Prizes in six categories: for top film, actress, supporting actor, supporting actress, director and screenplay at the 2009 Japan Academy Awards. It was also nominated in six other categories.

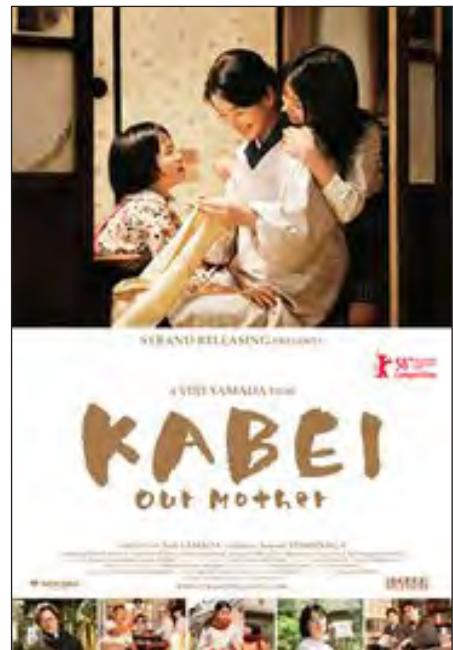
Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., May 23, 132 min. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share! Bring your own Kleenex.

母べえ (かあべえ)

昭和15年の東京。野上佳代(吉永小百合)は、愛する夫・滋(坂東三津五郎)と2人の娘、長女の初子(志田未来/大人:倍賞千恵子)と次女の照美(佐藤未来/大人:戸田恵子)と共に、つましいながらも幸せな毎日を送っていた。互いに"父(とう)べえ" "母(かあ)べえ" "初べえ" "照べえ"と呼び合い、笑いの絶えない野上家だったが、ある日、突然の悲劇が一家を襲う。

文学者である滋が、反戦を唱えたことを理由に特高刑事に逮捕されてしまったのだ。穏やかだった生活は一変し、不安と悲しみを募らせる母と娘たち。そんな中、滋のかつての教え子・山崎(浅野忠信)や滋の妹・久子(檀れい)、放埒で型破りな叔父・仙吉(笑福亭鶴瓶)らが一家のもとに駆けつけ、佳代と娘たちを優しく親身に支えていく。

賞歴： 第32回日本アカデミー賞： 優秀作品賞、 優秀監督賞： 山田洋次、 優秀脚本賞： 山田洋次・平松恵美子、 優秀主演女優賞： 吉永小百合、 優秀助演



男優賞： 浅野忠信、 優秀助演女優賞： 檀れい、 優秀音楽賞： 富田勲、 優秀撮影賞： 長沼六男、 優秀照明賞： 中須岳士、 優秀美術賞： 出川三男、 最優秀編集賞： 石井巖、 その他。

公開：2008年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：132分、5月23日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

TRADE WIND

HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN / KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI / HILO HIGASHI HONGWANJI

PALOLO HONGWANJI / WAIMEA HIGASHI HONGWANJI

SPRING 2017

BISHOP'S GREETINGS

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope this district newsletter finds you in good health and spirits.

First of all, I would like to express my humble and sincere appreciation to all of you for supporting this district and each temple in the islands.



Bishop Kawawata

Last year we observed the 750th Memorial Service for our founder, Shinran Shonin, and celebrated our Betsuin's centennial. We had truly wonderful and successful services and commemorative events. I really thank our staff and members who enthusiastically worked together toward our historic services and events. Without your support we would not see such wonderful success.

In Hawaii, all traditional temples and churches have been facing a decline in membership, and have a difficult time maintaining their sangha and congregations. Our Betsuin is facing the same situation. That's why our District is now focusing on raising ministers and lay leaders, and providing educational programs such as MAP (Ministers Assistant Program) classes, which are designed to raise lay leaders who can work with temple ministers for their temple education programs and services. The classes have already started at Hilo and Waimea Higashi Hongwanji.

The Oahu class starting in April is very important for our future temples. Please give us your understanding and support for the MAP class. We will continue the Dobo Retreat program, which consists of public lectures and gatherings. For the next decade, we will be focusing on new educational programs for raising homegrown ministers and temple leaders.

For the future activities of this district, we really need your wholehearted support and participation. Therefore, I ask your continuous support and cooperation with our district objectives.

Thank you very much.

In Gassho,
Kenjun Kawawata

NEW KANEOHE MINISTER

Aloha everyone!

I am Hideaki Nishihori, the new minister at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji. My first name is Hideaki, so you can call me "Aki" if it's easier for you.

I arrived in Hawaii on the 24th of February. As you may know, it's very cold in Japan in February. So I came from where it's very cold to where it is hot!

I was born in Kobe, which is near Osaka in the western Kansai region of Japan. The city of Kobe has sea and mountains, with a population of about 1.5 million, almost the same as the population of Hawaii, right? Kobe, famous for its beautiful scenic views and Kobe port, draws many visitors every year.



Rev. Hideaki Nishihori

As you may know, a massive earthquake struck Kobe in 1995 and more than 6,000 people died. I was 14 years old at that time and it was a terrifying experience, with widespread quake and fire damage as if the city were bombed. My temple in Kobe was half destroyed. Those frightening scenes seriously affected me and this could be one of the reasons why I've become a minister. Today, after 22 years, Kobe has fully recovered and the city is very clean and popular with visitors from all over the world.

My hobby is composing music. I really like music. I started playing the guitar when I was 14, when my brother taught me how to play and I've been doing it for more than 20 years. I also play the bass guitar, keyboards and viola. Someday hopefully I can play music for you.

I began teaching high school English because I could have a steady salary, but truthfully, I was not happy in my job. So then I decided to became a minister, seeking what the truth is, and I am still looking for it. Shin Buddhism teaches us many things in our life. I just would like to share what I have learned and also would like to learn from you.

I look forward to meeting all of you personally in the coming months. Mahalo!

In Gassho,
Hideaki Nishihori

ACTIVITIES

Public Lecture

Friday, February 3, 2017

A public lecture was held at Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii by Shinshu Center of America in North America District. Guest lecturer Dr. Nobuo Haneda, Director of Maida Center of Buddhism, spoke on "Shakyamuni and Shinran: Buddhism as a Teaching of Self-Examination." There were around 40 attendees.



Joint Dharma Gathering

Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5, 2017

A Joint Dharma Gathering was held at Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii on Saturday and Hilo Higashi Hongwanji the next day. Dr. Nobuo Haneda's theme was "'Hearing' in Mahayana Buddhism: The Basis of Shinran's 'Hearing.'" Attendance was about 30 at each session.



Honolulu Rainbow 5K Ekiden Relay Race

Sunday, March 12, 2017

The Higashi Honganji Hawaii District team and Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin team crossed the finish line at Kapiolani Park together. Thank you for your support. We still have a few souvenir Higashi Hongwanji Ekiden t-shirts in stock. Please contact the District Office to purchase one.

Public Seminar

Saturday, March 18, 2017

A public seminar was held at Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, led by Rev. Dr. Michael Conway, Lecturer, Otani University in Japan. Dr. Conway's topic was "Liberation through Amida's Wisdom," which was followed by discussion. There were 25 attendees at the seminar.

Hawaii District Website

Please check out Higashi Honganji Hawaii District's website (<http://www.district.hhbt-hi.org>) for information on lectures, seminars and other activities.

LOCAL DHARMA GATHERINGS

Higashi Honganji Hawaii District holds Local Dharma Gatherings at each Higashi Hongwanji temple. We cordially invite you to attend any of these gatherings listed below. If you would like more information about the gatherings, please contact the temple directly.

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin)

Date: Saturday, June 3, 2017

Time: 10:00 am

Speaker: Rev. Marcos Sawada (Hilo Higashi Hongwanji)

Tel: (808) 531-9088

Hilo Higashi Hongwanji

Date: Saturday, June 17, 2017

Time: 10:00 am

Speaker: Rev. Noriaki Fujimori (Palolo Hongwanji)

Tel: (808) 935-8968

Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji

Date: Sunday, May 28, 2017

Time: 9:00 am

Speaker: Rev. Koen Kikuchi (Betsuin)

Tel: (808) 247-2661

Palolo Hongwanji

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Time: 10:30 am

Speaker: Rev. Marcos Sawada (Hilo Higashi Hongwanji)

Tel: (808) 732-1491

Waimea Higashi Hongwanji

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2017

Time: 9:00 am

Speaker: Rev. Koen Kikuchi (Betsuin)

Tel: (808) 338-1847

Higashi Honganji Hawaii District

Bishop Kenjun Kawawata

Rev. Hidesato Kita

1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Telephone/Fax: (808) 531-1231

Email: adminaloha@higashihonganji.org



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
1685 ALANEO STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MAY

| | | | |
|------|-----|---------|---|
| 5/7 | Sun | 10 am | Shotsuki service/Sunday school |
| 5/7 | Sun | 12 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara conference room |
| 5/9 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room |
| 5/11 | Thu | 7 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara conference room |
| 5/14 | Sun | 10 am | Mother's Day family service/ Sunday school |
| 5/16 | Tue | 7 pm | O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe |
| 5/21 | Sun | 10 am | Shinran Shonin's Tanjo-e service/ Sunday school |
| 5/21 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara conference room |
| 5/23 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room |
| 5/23 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Movie night: Our Mother -母ベエ (1984) Fukuhara conference room |
| 5/28 | Sun | 10 am | All Wars memorial service/ Shinran Shonin memorial service/ Sunday school |

JUNE

| | | | |
|------|-----|---------|---|
| 6/3 | Sat | 10 am | Local Dharma Gathering Guest speaker: Rev. Marcos Sawada |
| 6/4 | Sun | 10 am | Shotsuki service/Sunday school |
| 6/4 | Sun | 12 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara conference room |
| 6/8 | Thu | 7 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara conference room |
| 6/11 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 6/13 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room |
| 6/18 | Sun | 10 am | Father's Day family service/ Sunday school |
| 6/18 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara conference room |
| 6/20 | Tue | 7 pm | O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin |
| 6/25 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 6/27 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room |
| 6/27 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Movie night: Midnight Diner -深夜食堂 Fukuhara conference room |
| 6/28 | Wed | 10 am | Shinran Shonin memorial service |

Everyone is welcome to join the morning chanting held at 7 am daily (except on Sundays & the 28th day of the month) in the Betsuin main hall.