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‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

6
June 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

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Editor: Ken Saiki

REMEMBERING SHINRAN’S BIRTH

A Tanjo-e service was held at the Betsuin on May 21 in celebration of Shinran Shonin’s birth. The following is a transcript of the dharma message presented at the service by Rev. Hidesato Kita.

Good morning everyone. Thank you for coming to this service. Now, it is May. This is the time for a special sickness in Japan! What is this sickness? It’s known as *Gogatsubyō*, or “May Disease”!

Because April begins the new fiscal year in schools, businesses and government, May is filled with stress for students and workers. Also, the end of April and beginning of May is called Golden Week. Everyone is relaxed and happy, but then May Sickness arrives, bringing stress and hard work! Some people actually can’t go back to school or work because they are depressed.

So, is everyone here at the service today OK? Did you want to come to this service? Just so you know, I am OK, too. I live in Hawaii, I like my life, and I didn’t have Golden Week.

Today, May 21 is celebrated as Shinran Shonin’s birthday. At our headquarters in Kyoto, Shinran Shonin’s birthday is celebrated on April 1. This difference is because Hawaii goes by the old calendar, and headquarters goes by the new calendar. In 2023, we will have a big service for Shinran Shonin’s 850th birthday. The headquarters is thinking about the theme for that event.

But for today, I would like to talk about the theme for the 800th birthday of Shinran Shonin. Do you remember that theme? It was “Let us discover the significance of birth and the joy of living.”

First, what is “the significance of birth”? In general, this means that we can’t live alone. We are all connected to lives in the past, present and future.

Second, what is “the joy of living”? In my life, I practiced and played rugby daily as a university student. My teammates were my friends, and our success was my treasure. I was comfortable and felt joy. These were unforgettable experiences and wonderful memories.

However, because of unforeseen life events such as sickness and death, we can’t connect with other people in the present or future. Also, as with my rugby experience, joy changes or ends with my condition of aging. We can’t guess what life will bring.

So, we need to reflect on this theme through the Dharma teaching and Hongan Nembutsu. This teaching has lasted 800 years, and now we

have reached the present. I can say this brings us joy. Through the Dharma and Nembutsu we can accept whatever life brings us. Joy of living is not only pleasure, but it is also accepting Amida’s compassion and being content.

In the world today, we all want to discover the significance of birth and the joy of living. However, instead we have wars, discrimination and world problems. People don’t want to hurt or kill other people, and we forget the theme of “significance of birth and the joy of living.” We have the possibility of becoming angry and starting wars. Coming up next week, in fact, is the Memorial Day weekend. We need to remember those who died in wars.

Today I talked about Shinran Shonin’s birthday. I hope we will continue to reflect on this theme of “Let us discover the significance of birth and the joy of living.” Even with hard times in the world, we want to remember this theme. Even better, we want to live by this theme.



Rev. Hidesato Kita

“Let us discover the significance of birth and the joy of living.”

Thank you in gassho,
Rev. Hidesato Kita



In the Spotlight

RAYMOND UYEMA

At the general membership meeting held in February, Ray Uyema was one of two new directors elected to the Betsuin board. For this month's issue of Wa, we asked Ray to tell us a little about his background as we welcome him to the board of directors. Here is what he would like to share with Betsuin members.

Thank you for the privilege in serving on the Board of Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

My issei grandparents were from Chatan village in Okinawa and were members of the McCully Higashi Hongwanji. My father, the late Richard Uyema, was also a member with my mother, Annie Kaneshiro, who currently resides in Hawaii Kai with my siblings. Both of my parents farmed for a living in Kalama Valley.

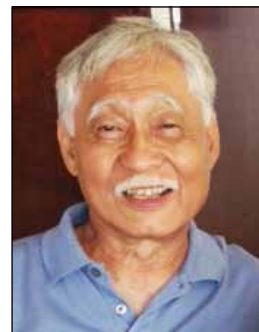
I had a very limited understanding of Buddhism. My grandparents had a hotokesama in our home. I was always curious about what our grandparents believed in and about Buddhism. My wife, Fay, and I are attending study classes, seminars, Buddhist services and various temple activities to acquaint ourselves with the philosophy and rituals. The classes especially offer an opportunity to clarify rituals and traditions which we have seen in practice. It also stretches the boundaries of our perspectives in how we view ourselves and understanding how we relate to everything else in life.

My dad passed away in 2008 and Rev. Narumichi Watanabe of this Betsuin officiated at his funeral services. The following year, I received a call from Rev. Watanabe about the closing ceremonies of McCully Higashi Hongwanji. The closing involved the gathering of many old-time members under Rev. Tamayose. At the completion of the service, the altar and bell were removed and refurbished. Both items now reside at Higashi Hongwanji Okinawa Betsuin. This event solidified the linkage to this Betsuin which archives our family and McCully's historical records, an event that jump-started my decision

to learn more about Buddhism.

After 40 years of being employed by the U.S. Navy, six of which was in active duty as an electronic technician and 34 years in civil service as an electronic engineer, I retired in 2012.

We have two daughters, Ellise, who resides and works in Washington state and Cassandra, who is completing her second year at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.



Ray Uyema

Among my past affiliations has been president and director for about a decade for the Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, a club under Hawaii United Okinawa Association, and serving on a board committee for our homeowners association. My spare time is spent in genealogical research and working on an endless list of home improvement projects.

I appreciate meeting and working with our dedicated members and look forward to taking on the many challenges before us.

Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Retreat Program

LOCAL DHARMA GATHERING

Awakening to Your Deepest Wish

Join us on Saturday, June 3 • 10 am - 3 pm

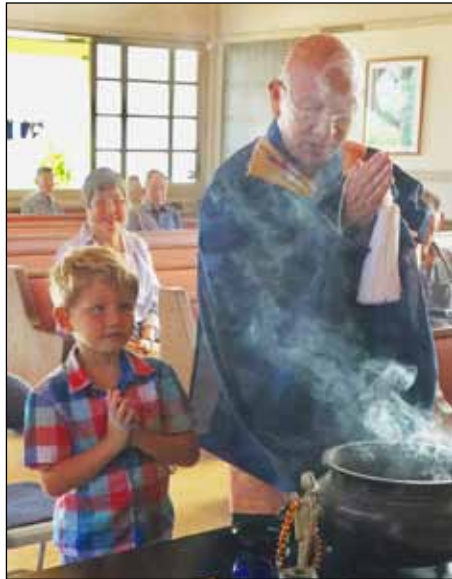
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii • 1685 Alaneo St. (corner N. Kuakini St.) • Phone 531-9088



Guest lecturer: Rev. Marcos Jinen Sawada, Minister, Hilo Higashi Hongwanji Mission

Rev. Sawada was born in Adamantina town, São Paulo, Brazil and graduated from the Physical Education & Sports College at São Paulo University. He was a Portuguese and Japanese language teacher, translator and interpreter, a shiatsu seitai professional and an assistant physical coach for professional soccer teams.

He received his Tokudo ordination in 2009, studied Buddhism at Doho University in Nagoya and obtained his minister's license in 2011. He worked at Honzan before arriving in Hilo in September 2012 as resident minister at Hilo Higashi Hongwanji Mission. He and his wife, Norma, have a son, Nathan, now in the 8th grade.



Logan McClenney and Rinban Kawawata gassho during the Hatsumairi ceremony.

Combined Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi services conducted at Betsuin

On May 21 we held our Tanjo-e service in celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin in conjunction with our Hatsumairi ceremony to mark the initial visit to the temple for infants and young children.

Following the chanting of the Tanbutsu-ge sutra, four-year-old Logan McClenney was brought before the Buddha for the first time, and presented with a gift of *onenju* and a certificate from Rinban Kenjun

Kawawata to commemorate the auspicious event.

Accompanying Logan to the temple were his mother, Mari, and grandmother, longtime member Charlotte Tsukamoto.

The Tanjo-e service followed, after which everyone adjourned to Otani Center to congratulate Logan, introduce him to the Kikuchi children and have lunch together.

Welcome to the family, Logan!

Gentle and wistful *Midnight Diner* is full of lovable, quirky characters

June's movie is set in the back alleys of Tokyo. Someone forgets a funerary urn in a small late-night diner operated by the Master (Kaoru Kobayashi), where patrons share their everyday problems over pork miso soup, beer, sake and whatever Master can muster up. The little stories and gentle human drama is sure to warm your heart.

There's the disappointed mistress Tamako (Saki Takaoka) who wasn't bequeathed anything by her late lover; the inexperienced Hajime (Tokio Emoto), who catches her attention; Michiru (Mikako Tabe), a penniless girl from Niigata who slips away without paying her bill; a kimono-clad restaurant owner, Chieko (Kimiko Yo), who has a crush on the Master; Kosuzu

(Toshiki Ayata), a cross-dressing bar owner and his yakuza admirer, Ryu (Yutaka Matsushige); Kogure (Joe Odagiri), the neighborhood cop; and many more charismatic characters.

This 2015 movie adaptation of the popular Japanese television series quickly became a box-office hit all



over Asia and spawned copy-cat films in other countries.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., June 27, 120 min. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

深夜食堂 (しんやしょくどう)

街のある一角に、深夜0時になると開くめしやがある。掲げられたメニューは豚汁定食、ビール、酒、焼酎しかないが、マスター（小林薫）ができるものだったら言えば作ってくれる。めしやにはいつもマスターの味と居心地の良さを求めて人が集まる。ある日、店に骨壺が置き忘れられていた。常連客たちが骨壺をネタにあだこうだ話に花を咲かせていたところ、久しぶりにたまごがやってくる。最近愛人を亡くした彼女は、新しいパトロンを探している最中だった。めしやに住み込みで働くことになったみちるも、常連客のあけみに会いたいと騒ぐ謙三も、何か訳ありの様子。マスターのどこか懐かしい味は、そんな彼らのおなかも心も満たしていく。

監督：松岡錠司、出演者：高岡早紀、柄本時生、多部未華子、余貴美子、綾田俊樹、松重豊、オダギリジョー、公開：2015年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：120分、6月27日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



Mother's Day otoki chefs & chef assistants: The temple men and friends prepared everything from salad, entrees, side dishes and desserts for lunch after the Mother's Day family service May 14. They even remained to clean up afterwards. The satisfied, discriminating female members offered to grade the performance, awarding an A+!



2017 BON DANCE: THE PREQUEL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 14 & 15
7:00 - 10:00 PM

Just as surely and swiftly as spring brought the rain, summer will soon arrive with the obon revelry brightly in tow.

A big caution for this year, though, is that our bon dance weekend at Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin will be the *third* weekend, Friday and Saturday, July 14 and 15 (not the *fourth* weekend as you may be used to from past years). So make sure you pull your calendar right now to reserve Friday and Saturday, from 7 to 10 pm. We hope you'll be able to join us.

While you have your calendars out, you can also mark Tuesday, July 11 for "Bon dance practice": 6 pm with Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii and 7 pm with Honolulu Fukushima Bon Dance Club.

Food, of course, is a "must-have" at bon dances in Hawaii, and the battle is on again for the "bestest" andagi and shave ice, and "who-piles-the-most-on-plate" among all the bon celebrations on the island.

Yes, you can expect your favorite menu items to return and hope you will plan to have your dinner with us. Not only will you be satisfying your craving for our various specialty items, but you'll be helping the temple, as our bon dance food concessions serve as a way for us to raise funds for our community programs.

To help us stretch our dollar even further, we're asking your kokua for food and cash donations, too. You'll find our most needed items in the Top 10 bon Dance donation wish list after this article.

Our popular Manto-e lanterns in memory of loved ones who have passed will be available again this year. We will string them from the yagura as we have in past years. We'll also hold Manto-e services and a candle procession on both evenings starting at 6:30 pm immediately prior to the bon dance.

We will be publishing more about our bon dance—including opportunities to volunteer to help, such as stringing lanterns, food prep and staffing food concessions—in the July issue of our Wa newsletter.

If you'd like more information or have questions now, feel free to call the temple at 531-9088 or email us at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.

If you haven't washed your yukata since last year, you'll get a quick lesson in the perils of human perspiration left on cotton for one year. You may end up having to dye your yukata a sick mustard color for this year, but don't worry, we won't reveal your secret and tell anyone why you chose that color.

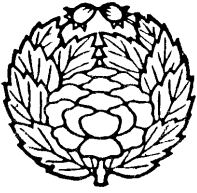
While we hope you'll wear your favorite yukata or happi and bring a towel and fan to the bon dance, please don't hesitate to join the circle just as you are.

By the way, did you know that "Bon dance" spelled backwards is "Ecnad nob"?

— Faye Shigemura

Bon Dance Donation Wish List

Rank	Item	Qty. needed
#10	Juice (Haw'n Sun/Aloha Maid)	8 cases
#9	Bottled water	10 cases
#8	Carrots, onions, potatoes	Plenty
#7	Large eggs	10 doz.
#6	Flour	50#
#5	Sugar	50#
#4	Yamasa shoyu	3 gallons
#3	Spam	20 cans
#2	Rice	60#
and finally, leading the Top 10 list,		
#1	Cash, which will allow us to purchase items as needed.	
Call 531-9088 for our donations sign-up sheet.		



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JUNE

6/3	Sat	10 am	Local Dharma Gathering Guest speaker: Rev. Marcos Sawada
6/4	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school
6/4	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
6/8	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
6/11	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
6/13	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room
6/17	Sat	10 am	Oahu MAP class 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: <i>Midnight Diner</i> - 深夜食堂 Fukuhara conference room
6/28	Wed	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

JULY

7/2	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school
7/2	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
7/3	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
7/9	Sun	10 am	Obon/Hatsubon service/Sunday school
7/11	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/11	Tue	6 pm	Bon dance practice at Otani Center (6 pm: Ryukyu, 7 pm: Fukushima)
7/13	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
7/14	Fri	6:30 pm	Manto-e service/Bon dance
7/15	Sat	6:30 pm	Manto-e service/Bon dance
7/16	Sun	9 am	Bon dance cleanup (no Sunday service)
7/17	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
7/18	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
7/23	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
7/23	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
7/23	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class
7/25	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/25	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Adrift in Tokyo</i> - 転々
7/28	Fri	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
7/30	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school

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.