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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

June 2018

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

A MOTHER’S DAY TRIBUTE

Fay Uyema

The following dharma message was presented during the May 14 Mother’s Day service by Betsuin member lay speaker Fay Uyema.

I found my dad slumped over our black lacquered table in the living room. His scribbles on pages of folder paper were strewn near him. At first, I panicked, thinking the worst. When I noticed his breathing, I set the papers down and ran to my room.

“4/30/64 12 am: Kay, Mom & I stayed up almost all night until morning. Dr. Batkins suggested another surgery (the 4th) so I signed some more papers authorizing him to go ahead. At 3:30 pm she was back in her room. When I saw Edith she looked real good and I knew that if we should stay longer she would look bad again so I decided that while she was looking good, let’s all go home at 8 pm. All this time I knew that Edith’s chances were slim.

5/1/64 1 am: I’m right now under influence of liquor which Rev. Tsuha suggested that I have few drinks so that I could sleep, which I agreed was a good idea. I think this is all I think I can write. I hope she recovers so I can make up all the wrong things I have done to her.

5/1/64 1:30 am: Right now I cannot sleep thinking that she might go any minute. To all her friends I would like to say I’m sorry if I didn’t call or let you know what condition she is in now. Even my neighbor Mr. & Mrs. Iha just found out April 30, 5 pm when she questioned my daughter, where’s her mom. I don’t know how I made Mr. & Mrs. Iha feel but if they think that I did wrong by not telling them what happened I’m really sad because the state I was in I don’t think that I could’ve explained what happened. So to all her friends that I should’ve called or let them know I’m sorry so please excuse me. If she should pass away which I hope she doesn’t, I’ll have my sister call Rev. Tsuha and explain the situation. My parents are on the mainland to attend the wedding of my younger sister and here my wife is in a critical condition. We have decided to tell my parents after the wedding. Somehow, as I’m writing all this, I somehow feel that I have failed her. In fact, I somehow know that I have failed her.

If anybody can describe her, I think I’m best qualified to do so. So instead of the conventional MC telling everybody what kind of woman she was, I’d like whoever the MC is to read my version and relate what I want to say. My wife was a woman I don’t have the words to express. She catered to my every whim like cutting fingernails and toenails. She didn’t object to any of my hobbies. I’m sorry to say to this day I don’t know what she really could enjoy. She’s always telling me she’s very lucky to have a husband like me, that I’m so understanding. She always made me feel that I was a king or something, but inside me I couldn’t tell her what a trash I am. That’s the kind of woman she was so I want to thank each and every one of you for making her life on this Earth an enjoyable one.”

All I could remember was not being able to see my mom since we were in the emergency room on April 27 and staying at relatives’ homes in the days to come. I overheard one of my aunts saying to my dad that it’s best the kids not be allowed to see her; that it’s best that they



Fay Uyema

(cont’d on p. 2)

TRIBUTE (cont'd from p. 1)

remember her the way she was. Just about everything that followed is a blur.

When Kikuchi-sensei emailed me recently to ask that I provide a lay person's Mother's Day message, I was at a loss on how to respond. Naturally, there's anxiety whenever I'm asked to speak publicly but for me this hesitation was different. The subject matter revives an ocean of pain even till today. Back then, it was a chaotic time of imbalance, uncertainty, a time of loss, as they say, whenever someone dies. The loss was two-fold for me: of course, loss in terms of the absence of a parent but also, imagine the feeling of being



This 1950 photo of her mom at Lanikai Beach is Fay's favorite, with her father playfully mimicking his wife's pregnant posture.

lost, it's like three children lost in the woods as darkness sets in. I just heard William and Harry talk about their mother, Princess Diana's death. They said it was a feeling of "instability."

My mother, Edith Yoshiko Funakoshi, passed away on May 2, 1964 at the age of 40. I was 12 at the time with two younger brothers, ages 11 and 8.

At the age of 29, Siddharta Gautama ventured out of his luxurious life in the palace. For the first three times, he set out to discover illness, death and suffering.

I thought to myself...these are realities of life, but do they have to hit you all at once?

Although my memory of that time is not very clear, I remember that my first "hurt" came when I returned to school after the funeral. I was not bullied in intermediate school but I was now "different," being raised by one parent. I was singled out, not by my classmates, but by a parent, of all things. My best friend Iris distanced herself from me. She told me that she could no longer be my friend because her mother thought I would go wayward and likely get into trouble without a mother around to raise me. This signaled the start of many changes to come, but more about that later.

Let's turn our attention back to Mother's Day. All sorts of statistics come out about how many thousands of pieces of clothing are washed by a mother in a lifetime. We used to estimate the number of dishes were washed in a year but people now use dishwashers. Well, I did not realize how incompetent I was with chores until Mommy was gone. She did everything for us. Suddenly, cooking, doing laundry and cleaning, which I knew so little about, became part of my daily regimen.

Fortunately, I learned to cook, mainly from my grandmother and my dad. Several aunts shared their favorite recipes. It got overwhelming, though. I remember collapsing in front of the stove a couple of times while preparing dinner. My dad rushed me to emergency. It was simply exhaustion. You hear about folks bringing over lasagna casseroles to the grieving family. I'm wondering... is that what they do only on the mainland or is it just Hollywood, in the movies? We sure could have used some home-cooked meals.

Mrs. Kobayashi, our neighbor from across the street, without being asked, collected our dirty laundry and

washed, hung them out to dry and ironed them for a week or so since my mom's hospitalization. I wish Mrs. Kobayashi had been around longer to teach me more than sorting the whites from the colored.

Who pours Clorox into a washer filled with clothes before the water fills? I did. Who pours Clorox into a load of dark clothes? Hard to believe but I did that, too! Dad wasn't too pleased when his denim jeans came out tie-dyed. I was such an idiot! I was also very spoiled!

"Who pours Clorox into a washer filled with clothes before the water fills? I did."

Daddy wrote that Mommy "catered to his every whim." It wasn't only for him though; she catered to every whim for each of her three kids.

I want to talk about one of my mom's "specialties." I was reminded of this when Kawawata-sensei wrote in last month's *Wa* about his mother's "specialty" of cooking. He enjoyed her cooking delicious meals such that whenever he cooks something, he tries to make it close to his mother's taste. He wrote, "My tongue still remembers her taste, which means her life exists in my own being."

There was one thing that only my mother could do like nobody else that became a family ritual. It was special and just for us kids. This was cleaning our ears, or *mimi sooji*. One at a time, she would have us rest our head on her lap. She used an ear cleaner (many of you are probably too young to know this) but she used a long bamboo skewer with a micro-scooper on one end (it looked like a miniature spoon) and on the other end, a cotton fluff ball that looked like a pompom. The feeling is indescribable. We never wanted her to stop; it was so comforting and would have us doze off into sweet dreams.

I somehow inherited this "talent" of ear-cleaning because I instinctively did it for my daughters and this became a ritual from the

time they were toddlers. Mystifying as it may sound, they felt the same soothing comfort I experienced as a youngster. Further unexplainable is that my brother's daughters asked that I clean their ears too, when they would visit and watch as I cleaned my daughter's ears. They experienced the same delight. All four of them never met my mom but all four could relate to the comfort and care which comes from this simple act. Today, we all own plastic ear cleaners and they come with a built-in light. They come from Japan and you can pick them up at Marukai, or Daiso on the West Coast.

My dad mentioned that my mom never objected to his hobbies. She was not the outdoorsy type but never complained and accompanied him whenever he fished around the island nearly every weekend. There were countless family trips of picnics, camping, diving, picking ogo, setting out on his boat from Sand Island.

I cannot recall growing up without having dinner with all five of us present. My mom cooked almost daily ensuring that the whole family dined together. After Mommy died, my dad made sure that we continued this family tradition. To this day, even with Dad gone, my brother's family and mine gather for Sunday family dinners. Fishing has also rubbed off on our daughters and nieces. We try to fit in oama fishing whenever the girls



Fay enjoying the holidays with her mother, baby brother and her wooden rocking horse.

are home for the summer. Daddy kept life interesting; Mommy kept life together!

My dad carpooled with co-workers to and from work at Pearl Harbor. His friends were multi-ethnic. My mom entertained them at least weekly at our home where they could drink and have pupus after work which she prepared. Even Dad's non-Asian friends all took a liking to *andasu* in their musubi, an Okinawan pork and miso filling in place of *umeboshi*. His friends never took her generosity and hospitality for granted. In fact, some 20 years later I ran into Dad's friend, "Uncle Joe," and he said to me, "Fay, I hope you learned how to make your mom's musubi!"

After she passed, we were treated like family by Dad's friends and included

in their holiday gatherings, picnics, and camping trips. Their wives and mothers took me under their wing and taught me cooking, sewing and even dancing the hula.

I hope this invokes some recall for you about your mother's specialties.

Referring back to the life of the Buddha, we learn that Siddharta on his 4th journey, ventured out and met a monk who would guide him into a life of a spiritual seeker. Realizing that the world is filled with pain and sorrow, what human beings have in common is suffering. We stand to lose everything that we love. But we can learn to know the full truth and seek ways to be happy.

For me to get my life back on track, I would have to go out and find ways to adjust to the changes and find happiness. I came upon this quote from Erik Weihenmeyer from his book, *No Barriers*. The author was in the 9th grade when he lost his sight. He said, "You can make a choice: to be bitter or better." He conquered bitterness and continues to be better. He is the first blind man to kayak the Grand

Canyon rapids and climb Mt. Everest. I think for anyone, there are many opportunities to make life better and emerge out of a difficult time.

There are many more examples of selflessness and sacrifice which people close to my mom told me about her but I'm afraid I've gone on too long.

First: I wish to leave you with some positive advice on this Mother's Day. I think it's important that I say that if your mother is still around, appreciate what you have in life with her up to this very day. If your mother and the mothers before her are no longer around, appreciate what you had...be it 12 years or 112 years.

"If your mother is still around, appreciate what you have in life with her up to this very day. If your mother and the mothers before her are no longer around, appreciate what you had."

I have only seven pictures of me with my mom, all taken before I reached the age of 4. There were no camera phones back then. So appreciate what you can remember of what you had; memories are hard to delete from your brain's "hard drive"; certainly not from your heart.

Whether you experienced motherhood or not, appreciate what you are, for the many good traits of your mother still lives in you.

Although not for as long as I would have liked it to be, my brothers and I were fortunate to have a mother with strong character. My father, likewise, showed this strength because for many years he had to be both mother and father to us. Together, they built a solid foundation to influence us to be responsible, compassionate and respectful in how we live our lives.

Today, we *gassho* to say a special thank you to our mothers.

I hope sharing these personal stories have caused you to pause and have good thoughts about your mother. Thank you.



Moms (and some maybe future moms) gather before the stage at Otani Center for a souvenir group photo after the special Mother's Day family service lunch on May 14.

Mother's Day lunch brings out temple men's hidden chef talents

On any other Sunday, the after-service lunch menu would've been considered quite impressive, starting off with two kinds of ahi poke and boiled peanuts to whet everyone's appetite.

But being Mother's Day, the temple men went all out to express their special appreciation for what the ladies do all the other Sundays throughout the year. Well, most of the Sundays, anyway.

Gracing the Mother's Day menu was a refreshing somen salad, some celebratory *sekihan* red-bean rice to commemorate the occasion, Japanese soup and a cheesy, moist and light ham and corn souffle to accompany the pièce de résistance, a char-glazed misoyaki salmon fillet. So tender, so flavorful, so grateful that according to the American Heart Association, salmon is an excellent source of omega-3. Hooray, something that tastes good and is also good for you!

Following the meal, there were desserts aplenty, including orange

gelatin with orange cream cheese, pumpkin pie, flan and apple pie.

There was also a cheesecake to help Mai Kikuchi celebrate her birthday. It was rumored that this was her 29th birthday.

It was fun. But wait! The fun wasn't over yet. Most of the men stuck around to clean up and do the dishes, too!

June movie, *Harmonium*, a family drama that will keep you guessing

The Suzuoka family runs a small metal processing factory in the suburbs. Toshio (Kanji Furutachi), his wife, Akie (Mariko Tsutsui) and her 10-year-old daughter, Hotaru (Momone Shinokawa) have a calm family life. One day, Toshio's old acquaintance, Yasaka (Tadanobu Asano), recently released from prison, comes over. Toshio gives a job to him without consulting his wife and offers a room at their home. From there the film goes in unexpected directions and no doubt you'll be thinking a lot about the movie afterwards.

Awards include the 69th Cannes International Film Festival *Un Certain Regard* Jury Prize Award; 38th

Yokohama Film Festival, Best Actress Award (Mariko Tsutsui), Best Newcomer Award (Taiga); ELLE Cinema Grand Prize 2016, Best Director Award (Koji Fukada); The 31st Takasaki Film Festival, Best Work Award and Best Actress (Mariko Tsutsui); among other awards.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tuesday, June 26, 118 min. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

淵に立つ (ふちにたつ)

鈴岡家は郊外で小さな金属加工工場を営み、夫の利雄（古舘寛治）と妻の章江（筒井真理子）、10歳の娘・蛍（篠川桃音）は穏やかに暮らしていた。ある日、利雄の古い知り合いで、最近出所したばかりの草太郎（浅野忠信）がやってくる。利雄は妻に何の相談もなく彼に職を与え、自宅の空室を提供する。

受賞：第69回カンヌ国際映画祭「ある視点」部門 審査員賞；第38回ヨコハマ映画祭：主演女優賞（筒井真



真理子）、最優秀新人賞（太賀；ELLEシネマ大賞2016ベストディレクター賞（深田晃司）；第31回高崎映画祭：]最優秀作品賞、最優秀主演女優賞（筒井真理子）；そのほか。

監督：深田晃司、公開：2016年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：118分、6月26日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Retreat Program

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Local Dharma Gathering

Theme: “Let Us Discover the Joy of Living”

Date: Sunday, June 24, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Lecturer: Rev. Noriaki Fujimori
(Palolo Hongwanji)**

**Place: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817
Telephone (808) 531-9088**



Rev. Noriaki Fujimori

Rev. Fujimori was born 1958 in Hokkaido Japan where the Ainu people live. In 1988, he was sent to South America 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 sent to Waimea Higashi Hongwanji as a resident minister. Three months prior, a hurricane had hit the temple and totally destroyed it. Through the experience, he started environmental programs to live in an environmentally friendly society. One of his goals was to install a natural energy system at the Waimea Higashi Hongwanji temple. Through a Dharma friend's support, now the temple has a photovoltaic system. He started an exchange program with the Ainu among members of the temple and the community, Hawaiian people and a temple friend in Hokkaido. In 2013, he was assigned to Palolo Hongwanji as resident minister. He enjoys starting programs with members and community friends for cleaning, gardening art and other activities.

Detach Here

I would like to participate in the Local Dharma Gathering .

Name:

Phone:

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please Call Higashi Hongwanji
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii: (808)531-9088**



On June 19, 1868—during the 1st year of Emperor Meiji’s rule, or *Meiji-gannen*—the first organized group of Japanese emigrants overseas, known as *Gannenmono*, or “First-year Men,” arrived in Honolulu to help fill a labor shortage in Hawaii, lured by the promise of four silver dollars per month in wages and an option to return to Japan at the end of a three-year contract.

The Kingdom of Hawaii needed workers for its booming sugar industry, made very profitable because the Civil War-ravaged South couldn’t meet the increasing demand for sugar.

According to *A History of Japanese in Hawaii* published in 1971 by the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, among the 150 *Gannenmono* were an artist, servants, a silkworm culturist, a saddlemaker, a cook, a *konnyaku* dealer, a gardener, several samurai and unemployed loafers. It should

be no surprise that, unaccustomed to harsh treatment by brutal field bosses, long hours, poor housing and hard labor, many of the workers complained and the Japanese government ended up halting further emigration for another 20 years.

About 50 *Gannenmono* remained in Hawaii, many starting families, while the others returned to Japan or went elsewhere to seek adventure or work.

Among those who stayed was Matsugoro Kuwada, who married Naleana Auwakoolani of Maui, whose daughter became Mrs. Kimi Matsu Cook of Hilo, with many part-Japanese descendants today.

Former samurai Tokujiro Sato and his wife, Kalala Kamekona, had four sons and a daughter. He built a large home on the Big Island which was still occupied by his descendants a hundred years later.

Toyokichi Fukumura, a six-foot-tall son of a *Gannenmono*, married

Kaha Lu’ukia, whose son, Solomon, changed the family name to Kenn. Grandson Charles Kenn distinguished himself in Hawaiian culture and was the first “Living Treasure” selected by Honpa Hongwanji in 1976.

Ichigoro Ishimura turned into a heavy drinker and was nicknamed “Mamushi-no-Ichi,” or “Ichi the Viper.” He later reformed, opened a cooking school and returned to Japan in 1933.

Hawaii’s first *Nisei* was Itoko Ogawa, born in 1872, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Kintaro Ogawa. Another baby was actually born earlier but the family returned to Japan.

The *Gannenmono* “trial” paved the way for King Kalakaua and Emperor Meiji to agree on bringing *kanyaku imin*, or contract labor immigrants two decades later, under better working conditions. Most Japanese-Americans living in Hawaii today owe their existence to their pioneer ancestors who left their homeland as *kanyaku imin* or during subsequent immigration periods ending in 1924.

As this year marks the 150th year since the arrival of the *Gannenmono*, there are many special events celebrating the occasion through the year. Check the local newspapers for those that may interest you. We’ve listed a few below for you to consider.



UPCOMING GANNENMONO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS



Gannenmono: A Legacy of Eight Generations in Hawaii starting Tue., 6/5 at 9 am at Bishop Museum. Ph. 847-3511.

59th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad held in Hawaii to honor Gannenmono, 8 am, Wed., 6/6, Sheraton Waikiki, \$100, www.jadesas.or.jp/en/

Gannenmono 150th Anniversary Ceremony & Symposium, 8 am, Thu., 6/7, Sheraton Waikiki, \$100 (SOLD OUT), Call 524-4450 for more information.

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince & Princess Akishino reception in celebration of Gannenmono 150th anniversary, 6 pm, Thu., 6/7, Prince Hotel, by invitation only.

Japanese Folk Song Charity Show, in celebration of Gannenmono 150th anniversary. 9 am, Sat., 6/16, Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom, \$50 including lunch, Minyo Harada Naoatsusa-kai. Call Atsuko Nonaka, 926-7223 for tickets.

JCCH Sharing the Spirit of Aloha Annual Gala Sat. 6/16 Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, doors open 6 pm, \$250 per person/\$200 JCCH members. For details, call 945-7633 x27.

United Japanese Society of Hawaii Installation Banquet, Sat., 6/23 10 am, \$50. Betsuin President Faye Shigemura to be installed as UJSH president, Betsuin minister Rev. Koen Kikuchi as director. Call UJSH office 941-5889, or Betsuin office 531-9088 to be seated with other Betsuin members.

UJSH/Hawaii Buddhist Council Obon Service at the Gannenmono & Kanyaku Imin memorials and Makiki Japanese Naval Cemetery, Sat., 7/14 at 9 am at Makiki cemetery. Free. For information, call UJSH office, 941-5889.

Moiliili Japanese Cemetery Obon Celebration honoring Gannenmono, 7/15 at 3 pm, www.moiliili.info/. Free.

Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin Bon Matsuri Fri., 7/20 - Sat. 7/21. Festival *yatai* food booths featuring yakitori, sushi, beef curry & chili bowls and more from 5:30 pm, Gannenmono lantern tribute, Mantoe service 6:30 pm, bon dancing until 10 pm. Also, illumination peace garden, intermission entertainment, children’s games, Shimazu Shave Ice, both nights. Free admission. Ph. 531-9088.



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JUNE

6/3	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school Dharma message: Rinban Kawawata
6/3	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room
6/4	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
6/9	Sat	10 am	Oahu MAP class
6/10	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school Dharma message: Rinban Kawawata
6/10	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class
6/12	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/14	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
6/17	Sun	10 am	Father's Day family service/ Sunday school Lay speaker: Shige Numano
6/17	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
6/18	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
6/19	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
6/24	Sun	10 am	Local Dharma gathering Lecture by Rev. Noriaki Fujimori
6/26	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/26	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Harmonium</i> 淵に立つ (2017)
6/28	Thu	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

JULY

7/1	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school
7/1	Sun	12 pm	Omigaki polishing of altar accessories
7/2	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
7/8	Sun	10 am	Obon/Hatsubon service
7/10	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/12	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
7/15	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
7/15	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
7/16	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
7/17	Tue	6 pm	Bon dance practice at Otani Center (6 pm: Ryukyu, 7 pm: Fukushima)
7/17	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
7/20	Fri	5:30 pm	Betsuin Bon Festival Food booths open
	&	& 6:30 pm	Mantō-e service
7/21	Sat	7 pm	Bon dance until 10 pm
7/22	Sun	9 am	Bon dance cleanup (no Sunday service)
7/24	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/24	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Eyes on You</i> ちよき (2016)
7/28	Sat	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
7/29	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
7/29	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class

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.