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## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

3  
March 2013

### 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

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET A TICKET TO THE OTHER SHORE?



RINBAN KENJUN KAWAWATA

**W**henever I travel to Japan, I worry about transportation. I mean, it's not the flight to Japan. Buying a plane ticket through a travel agency or on the Internet is easy. Once in Japan, however, to get anywhere, I have to take a train or bus. Public transportation there is really great, allowing me to enjoy views from the train and watching other people. My problem is getting the ticket.

Before you board a train or bus, you need to have a ticket in hand. Japanese people know how to find their destination, determine what the ticket is going to cost and use the vending machines to get their ticket. For them it's easy.

For foreigners, or folks like me who've lived in another country for a long time, it can be quite bewildering just to buy a ¥300 ticket to the next station. First you

have to figure out the huge map above the vending machine, which shows the various destinations and ticket prices.

Meanwhile, as you're trying to find where you're going and how much it's going to cost you, other people in a hurry behind you are bumping against you. After a long time gazing at the map, you find your destination and discover how much the ticket is. Woohoo! You triumphantly step forward to the vending machine to purchase your ticket. Umm...where do you put your money in? Which button do you press? People in line behind you fidget impatiently and wonder what's taking so long. It's a horrific moment I have to experience during my Japan trip, which, by right, should really just be stress-free enjoyment.



Today, however, I'm more familiar with the procedure for buying bus and train tickets. I hope they won't change their system soon.

To get to your destination, it's important to have your ticket. Without it, you'll never get there. For our own lives, too, we should know our destination, or the purpose of our life.

By the way, do you know how to get a ticket to the Other Shore, Ohigan? Hawaiian Airlines does not sell this ticket, nor does any other airline. You can't get it from a vending machine, either. Only the temple has this ticket for you.

As you know, the Other Shore, is the symbol of the Buddha's state of mind — peace and quiet — called "Nirvana." In Jodo Shinshu, we call the other shore "Pure Land." In Buddhism there is This Shore, which symbolizes the mind of deluded persons just like us as ordinary people. Naturally we all wish to go to the Other Shore, Nirvana.

At the temple we listen to the dharma and try to find true peace in our minds even though we have a lot of difficulties in our daily lives. The dharma is our ticket to the Other Shore. When we have a deep understating of the dharma and our own selves, the Other Shore comes to us and embraces us.

Please join us for our Spring Ohigan service on March 17 at 10:00 am. Let's listen to the Buddha dharma together and get a dharma ticket to the Other Shore.

In gassho,  
Kenjun Kawawata



### Rev. Nakai Packs 'Em In

Who would've thought a lecture on modern Shin Buddhist teachers would draw such a crowd?

A standing-room-only group of 40 eager learners crammed into the Fukuhara Conference Room at the Betsuin on Feb. 20 to listen to Rev. Patti Nakai, a sansei Jodo Shinshu minister visiting from the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, describe how



Rev. Nakai traces her own connection to Manshi Kiyozawa through her mentors and teachers.

Shin Buddhist reformer Manshi Kiyozawa fostered the spread of nembutsu teachings through his students Daiei Kaneko, Ryojin Soga and Haya Akegarasu, and opened the vast dharma storehouse in the context of the modern world. Others inspired by them, including people like Shuichi Maida and Dr. Nobuo Haneda, subsequently influenced others and made Shinran's teachings more accessible to people brought up in a Western culture.

At the conclusion of her lecture and Q&A session, each attendee was gifted with a copy of *The Evil Person*, a collection of essays by Maida, and translated by Dr. Haneda.

A new edition of Kiyozawa's simple but profound essays, *December Fan*, also translated by Dr. Haneda, is scheduled to be published soon by the Shinshu Center of America.

More of Rev. Nakai's reflections on Kiyozawa, life in general and happenings at her temple can be found on her blog, "Taste of Chicago Buddhism."

### Rennyō Shonin Memorial 3/24

Our Sunday service on March 24 will be in commemoration of Rennyō Shonin's death on March 25, 1499.

Rennyō (蓮如), the 8th Abbot of the Hongwanji Temple, is called the restorer of Shin Buddhism, as he walked all over Japan and revived Shinran Shonin's teachings with his enthusiastic energy.

Rennyō's most influential work is his collection of letters to members, known as *Ofumi*, which have the status of scriptural texts and are used in Shinshu daily liturgy.



Rennyō (1415-1499) was a direct descendant of our denomination's founder, Shinran Shonin.

The most well-known letter, "On White Ashes" (白骨の御文), which is a reflection on the impermanence of life and the importance of relying on Amida Buddha's Vow, is frequently read aloud during our funeral services.

### Ehime Vice Gov. Says "Mahalo!"



Kyodan Pres. Faye Shigemura accepts thanks from Ehime Maru Memorial Association Pres. Ed Hawkins and Ehime Vice Gov. Keiji Joko on behalf of the Betsuin. Temple member volunteers have been cleaning the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park twice a year as a community service.

### Buddhism: Back to the Basics

While others may have scored a dozen roses on Valentine's Day, Rinban Kawawata had to be content with the dozen attendees at his new Basic & Shin Buddhism class Feb. 14.

Everyone is invited to join the "come-as-you-are" classes every 2nd Thursday of the month, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Betsuin.

Meanwhile, after a few months' hiatus as a result of Bishop Mine's reassignment to Kyoto, the basic Buddhism study class in Japanese resumed on Feb. 3, led by Rinban Kawawata. It will continue to be held, usually on the first Sunday of each month, starting at 12 noon.

## Dharma Words to Live By

蓮如上人は、「行く先だけ見て、自分の足元を見ないでいると、つまづくに違いない。他人のことだけを見て、自分自身のことについて心がけないでいると、大変なことになる」と仰せになりました。

*If you only look ahead without watching your step, you are likely to miss your footing. Similarly, if you only look at other people without watching yourself, you will invite serious problems. So Rennyō Shonin said.*

-- Rennyō Shonin Goichidaiki-kikigaki (Thus I Have Heard From Rennyō Shonin), Chapter 191



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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### MARCH 2013

- 3/3 Sun 10 am **Shotsuki service**
- 3/3 Sun 12 pm **ABCs of Buddhism study class**  
現代語で仏教を聞こう  
led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese  
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 3/9 Sat 10 am **Study class:**  
What on Earth is *Namuamidabutsu*?  
led by Rev. Frank Childs  
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 3/10 Sun 10 am **Sunday service**
- 3/14 Thu 7:00 pm **Basic & Shin Buddhism study class**  
led by Rinban Kawawata in English  
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 3/17 Sun 10 am **Ohigan service**
- 3/17 Sun 12 pm **Betsuin board meeting**  
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 3/19 Tue 7 pm **O-ko:** Informal dharma discussion  
Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
- 3/24 Sun 10 am **Rennyō Shonin Memorial service**
- 3/31 Sun 10 am **Sunday service**

### APRIL 2013

- 4/7 Sun 9 am **HBC Buddha Day service**  
Joint Hawaii Buddhist Council service  
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
- 4/11 Thu 7:00 pm **Basic & Shin Buddhism study class**  
led by Rinban Kawawata in English  
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/13 Sat 10 am **Local retreat**  
Betsuin, Palolo & Kaneohe temples  
Palolo Hongwanji
- 4/14 Sun 10 am **Hanamatsuri service (Buddha Day)**
- 4/14 Sun 12 pm **ABCs of Buddhism study class**  
現代語で仏教を聞こう  
led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese  
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/16 Tue 7 pm **O-ko:** Informal dharma discussion  
Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
- 4/21 Sun 10 am **Shotsuki service**
- 4/21 Sun 12 pm **Betsuin board meeting**  
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/28 Sun 10 am **Sunday service**

*Everyone is welcome to join in on our sutra chanting at 7 am daily (except Sundays) in the Betsuin Main Hall.*