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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

5
May 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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Rinban: Kenjun Kawawata
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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

SHINRAN SHONIN'S BIRTHDAY SERVICE TANJO-E/HATSUMAIRI

RINBAN KENJUN KAWAWATA

We will observe Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi at our service on Sunday, May 19, at 10 am. Our guest speaker for this special celebration will be Rev. Frank Childs.

As you may know, Tanjo-e is the celebration of the birth of our founder, Shinran Shonin, who was born in Kyoto in 1173. We celebrate his birth and it gives us an opportunity to listen to the Nembutsu teachings.

Without Shinran Shonin's efforts and hard work for seeking the easy path for awakening, which is the Nembutsu teaching, we would not be able to listen to the Nembutsu teaching now, and we would not have the Sangha here.

We really appreciate listening to the easy path of Nembutsu teaching. We express our respect and gratitude to our founder, who sought the way of the truth with his entire being and left the most important teachings for us. That is why we celebrate the occasion as Tanjo-e, the gathering of Shinran Shonin's birth, and take this opportunity to reflect on his birth and, at the same time, the meaning of our own birth.

We also observe the Hatsumairi service, which is a ceremony for infants and children up to 12 years of age presented initially before the Buddha. This traditional ritual signifies the foundation towards a spiritual life. The babies and children will receive a keepsake certificate for attending this ceremony and *onenju* from our head temple in Kyoto.

Please bring your children and grandchildren for this special observance at our **Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi service on Sunday, May 19**. To help us prepare the certificates ahead of time, the temple will need your children's information, so please complete and send back the application form on the enclosed flier.



親鸞聖人誕生会 ● 新生児初参り法要

5月19日 午前10時

日本語法話：河和田賢淳輪番

I was brought up by my mother, a single parent. There is a reason that she is single. Shortly after I was born, she kicked my father out of house because she didn't like him. So naturally, I don't have any memories of my father. You can imagine she is not the soft, calm or gentle type of mother. If I had to choose one word to describe her, I would say, "free." She does what she likes to do.

One day, she suddenly told me, "I'm going to India for a month starting tomorrow. You take care of the temple." Everything was so sudden and instantaneous. I had never performed the duties of a minister before.

My family members have been Buddhist ministers for around four centuries. There is a family tradition that all males use the kanji character 元, or Gen, in their names. For example, my grandfather's name was 元正, or Gensho. My mother, however, did not like old traditions, so I ended up being 真, or Makoto (although my dharma name is 元真, or Genshin).

Since my assignment to the Betsuin last August, I've had the opportunity to hear many stories about mothers while making arrangements for funeral services. One of the preparations is to select a dharma name. If possible the name in some way should reflect the person's life, so I ask

families to share stories about the deceased. At times I would get a copy of the eulogy shared at the service. Some family members came to the temple to share their stories. The insight I would receive, coupled with age, place of birth, job and family information, allowed me to expand my image of the deceased and select the two kanji for the dharma name. Through this process I actually end up meeting the deceased.

People told me so many things about their mothers,

that they were "pure, spirited, observant, independent, kind, fair, good cook, feisty, strong, hard-working, quiet, talkative, happy, honest, caring, intelligent, active, gambler, young at heart, colorful, loyal, generous." I'm sure there are many more words to describe mothers. I believe, however, that there is one thing common to all people.

We all live in harmony with others... in harmony with family, in harmony with friends, in harmony with community, in harmony with nature. Each person gives life to their family, friends, community and nature. At same time, they also receive life from them. So, we are all inter-dependent on each other, and the rest of the world. Appreciation, I believe, comes from realizing this inter-dependency.

-- Rev. Makoto Honda

My Mother

Little Differences: Hawai'i and Colorado

For fifty years I've noticed the smell of Hawaii rain. Our tradewind-driven showers come with the smell of our tropical climate and geography. Yet what words of mine can do justice in telling how the petals of even one flower add to the quiet peace I feel just taking in the scent of our rain? In some way, though, I feel you understand... you live here, too. Now, I must tell you how Hawaii rain is different from the rain in my childhood home of Colorado. What will help me convey the feelings I wish to share?

Colorado rain by nature smells far different from the rain here. Aspen, pine and oak are just some of the trees that offer themselves to the scent of Colorado rain. The air is far more dry, and the wind has a cold, stark feel to it, even in summer. I smell those rains of my childhood even in dreams here and now in Hawaii. Why should such a memory

have so much power? I can only wonder. And have I helped even one of my readers get a sense of Colorado rain?

I can offer a bit more help. In 2004, I went to Kyoto as part of the Hoshidan group. One night we went to view maple leaves at a certain temple on the northeast side of the city. In the cold, soft rain I stood amazed.

The smell of Kyoto rain was almost the very same as that of Colorado rain. Why I felt such a thing I really cannot tell you. It was just a direct and one-of-a-kind experience lived in during just that moment.

Any little drop of rain anywhere might make any big difference in our everyday scheme of things. And yet, will any single day ever come again in Hawaii, Japan or Colorado? The little difference in the smell of rain makes life precious. Please experience for yourself.

-- Rev. Frank Childs





Bishop Kawawata fields questions from attendees at the District Dobo local retreat held April 13 at the classroom at Palolo Hongwanji. Photo by Makoto Honda

Oahu retreat held at Palolo

Twenty-two members from the Betsuin and Kaneohe and Palolo temples gathered at Palolo Hongwanji on Saturday, April 13, for a Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Dobo local retreat.

Following the opening service officiated by Rev. Noriaki Fujimori and a welcome address by Bishop Kenjun Kawawata, attendees regrouped to the classroom next door for the morning lecture themed "How we are affected by Shoshinge through our local retreat."

The lunch break came quickly and provided a great opportunity for members of the various temples to mingle and get to know each other better. The sushi platters were a big hit. Memo for next time: more *inari sushi*, fewer *uzumaki*.

Lively discussion dominated the breakout groups, which then summarized their findings and presented them to the main body.

By day's end we had learned a little more of Shinran Shonin's teaching and reflected on its effect on our daily lives. Participants returned to their temples better prepared to listen to the Dharma.

Letters from Iwo Jima to cap Memorial Day weekend

The gripping and unforgettable film, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Ken Watanabe, will be our featured presentation at our monthly Movie Night, Tuesday, May 28. The critically acclaimed movie is being shown in conjunction with our Memorial Day weekend observance, which includes an All War Victims' Memorial service on May 26.

Nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, *Letters from Iwo Jima* won the Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language film in 2006. Runtime: 140 min. Japanese with English subtitles. Rated R (Graphic war violence).

Showtime is 6:30 pm. Admission is FREE. Ample seating in the Fukuhara Conference Room.

硫黄島からの手紙

前述の通り第79回アカデミー賞の作品賞・監督賞・脚本賞・音響編集賞にノミネートされた。監督：クリント・イーストウッド。出演者：渡辺謙、二宮和也、伊原剛志、加瀬亮
言語：日本語、字幕：英語
上映時間：140分 入場無料
5月28日(火)午後6:30時

Mother's Day Family Service

The Sunday service for May 12 is a Mother's Day special. While many members from the Betsuin are in Japan for the 11th World Dobo Convention, Rev. Honda will keep the home fires burning. The rumor is he may even be helping to prepare the after-service *otoki* lunch!

Buddha Day celebrated

Higashi Hongwanji helped the Hawaii Buddhist Council celebrate Hanamatsuri Buddha Day on April 7 with a popular marshmallow decorating table at the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin.

On April 14, we held our own Hanamatsuri service at the Betsuin, complete with a colorfully decorated hanamido. Three curious boys from the neighborhood joined in pouring tea over the baby Buddha.



Debra Saiki and Faye Shigemura helped dozens of kids of all ages create treats at the Marshmallow Heaven booth sponsored by the Betsuin at the HBC Buddha Day celebration at Honpa Hongwanji. Makoto Honda photo



Peggy Arita pours sweet tea over the baby Buddha in the decorated hanamido, while Mrs. Yoshiko Osa and Rev. Ryoko Osa prepare to offer incense at the Betsuin Buddha Day service. Jeanne Kawawata photo



In the Spotlight

DEBRA SAIKI

For the next couple of months we'll be featuring profiles of the new members elected to the Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin board this year. A new secretary and two new members were elected in 2013.

First we'll introduce you to our secretary, Debra Saiki. She's a familiar face among those of you who attend weekly services and stay for *otoki* refreshments afterward. You'll often



find her in the kitchen at the Otani Center, along with her sister, Faye Shigemura, making sure our regular service attendees, shotsuki families and other temple visitors from points near and far have refreshments and something to eat before heading home.

Debbie's parents and grandparents were members of Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin back when it was located on Banyan Street so it was natural for her to also become a member. Born and raised in the neighborhood, she graduated from Farrington High School and attended Kapiolani Community College and University of Hawaii. She is currently employed at Rosehill & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in representing various interest groups.

She and her entrepreneurial husband, Dennis, moved to Austin, Texas in 1988 to start a business and lived there for more than 12 years.



Debbie (left), Faye Shigemura and Rev. Makoto Honda at the Marshmallow Heaven table at the recent HBC Buddha Day celebration.

Being young and adventurous, Debbie one day decided to fulfill her urge to do something daring and bold, and said she wanted to go skydiving. Dennis, meanwhile, being a very thoughtful person, pointed out that, should anything happen,

one of them should live to keep the business going and graciously volunteered to wait on the ground for her. Once she completed that adventure, Debbie says she very quickly became older and wiser and was permanently cured of any desire to jump out of a perfectly good airplane again.

After returning to Honolulu she once again became involved in the temple, helping with fundraising and other events. In 2012 she was appointed as acting secretary and in 2013 was elected to the position as secretary.

She and Dennis, whom you'll see behind the barbecue grill during bon dances and running the sound system at other events, have three children and eight grandchildren.

SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR MAY

Our May 5 shotsuki service is our monthly remembrance of our temple family members who passed away in May of a past year. At this month's shotsuki service we honor and pay respects to:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Jo Ann Sayoko Dawson | Shizuko Matsumoto | Hisako Suyama |
| Kiyoshi Fujieda | Phyllis Umeko Matsunaga | Myron Nagao Suyetsugu |
| Fujie Fujieda | Randal Kiyoshi Michioku | Richard Kakuji Takasaki |
| Masako Fukuhara | Yoshino Mimuro | Mamoru Takeshita |
| Jean Haruko Hifumi | Harry Masaru Minamishin | Shigeru Tamanaha |
| Michiko Higa | Robert Seigi Miyagi | Fred Gyoun Tamayose |
| Kiyoshi Hikari | Tsutayo Miyamura | Cherie Toshiko Tamayose |
| Ike Torao Ikari | George Kazuyuki Morita | Hatsue Tanoue |
| Sueto Ikari | Kenichi Mukai | Caesar Shinzo Tsutsumi |
| Tsuruko Ishikawa | Chiyoko Nakagawa | Harumi Ujimori |
| Doris Umeko Ishikawa | James Kiyoshi Nakamoto | Takino Umeda |
| Shigeru Ishimatsu | Toshie Nakamura | James Shigeru Umeda |
| Hazel Sachiko Iwaki | Harry Masao Nishida | George H. Umemoto |
| Roy Hideo Kaneshiro | Muraichi Nishida | Laura Tsuki Yamamoto |
| Grace Matsue Kaneshiro | Mildred Yukie Saida | Sharon Taeko Yamamoto |
| Francis Kawada | Ishi Sawamura | James Takeo Yamamura |
| Masao Kitayama | Asako Sekimoto | Rik Rikio Yamashita |
| Hisa Kobayashi | Sueko Shima | Yoshio Yonekura |
| Gary Ken Kudo | Florence Mitsue Shimada | Hyosaburo Yoshida |
| Raymond Eiwo Kurakake | Kazumi Shimizu | <i>(Listing includes members from past 25 years)</i> |
| Masatoshi Matsumoto | Hiroshi Shoji | |

While shotsuki services are observed every year, special *nenki hoyo* memorial services are held during certain auspicious years. These years include the 1st anniversary, followed by memorial services for the 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 50th years, held during the year prior to the actual anniversary date. Consult a minister for more information.



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
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In this issue of WA...

- **Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi service** p. 1
- **My Mother** p. 2
- **Little Differences: Hawaii & Colorado** p. 2
- **News on the Betsuin Wireless** p. 3
- **In the Spotlight: Debra Saiki** p. 4
- **Shotsuki observance for May** p. 4
- **HELP WANTED database/website** p.5
- **Insert: Hatsumairi application**

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MAY 2013

| | | | |
|------------|-----|---------|--|
| 5/5 | Sun | 10 am | Shotsuki service |
| 5/6 - 5/12 | | | 11th World Dobo Convention/Tour Kyoto, Hida-Takayama |
| 5/11 | Sat | 10 am | Study class: What on Earth is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 5/12 | Sun | 10 am | Mother's Day family service |
| 5/16 | Thu | 7 pm | ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 5/19 | Sun | 10 am | Shinran Shonin's Birthday service |
| 5/21 | Tue | 7 pm | O-ko: Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji |
| 5/26 | Sun | 10 am | All War Victims' Memorial service |
| 5/19 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 5/28 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Movie night: Letters from Iwo Jima (硫黄島からの手紙) Golden Globe & Academy Award winner Japanese audio/English subtitles Fukuhara Conference Room |

JUNE 2013

| | | | |
|------|-----|---------|---|
| 6/2 | Sun | 10 am | Shotsuki service |
| 6/2 | Sun | 12 pm | Basic Buddhism study class 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/8 | Sat | 10 am | Joint retreat at Betsuin |
| 6/9 | Sun | 10 am | Joint retreat at Hilo |
| 6/9 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service |
| 6/13 | Thu | 7 pm | ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/16 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service |
| 6/16 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/18 | Tue | 7 pm | O-ko: Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji |
| 6/23 | Sun | 10 am | Father's Day service |
| 6/25 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Movie: Departures (おくりびと) 2008 Academy Award winner Japanese audio/English subtitles Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/30 | 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.

Tanjo-e Service

In celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin

Hatsumairi Ceremony

Held in conjunction with Tanjo-e Service

Sunday May 19, 2013 10:00 am

English Message : Rev. Frank Childs



親鸞聖人誕生会 新生児初参り法要

2013年5月19日 午前10時

日本語法話：河和田賢淳輪番

A ceremony for infants and children up to 12 years of age who shall be presented initially before the Buddha. It signifies the foundation towards a spiritual life.

初参りは、新しいいのちの誕生を祝う儀式です。12才までのお子さんを受け付け致します。お早めにお寺まで申し込んでください。



Child's Name

Birthday

Age

Sex

M F

Parent's Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

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

Mother's Day Family Service

Sunday, May 12, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Message : Rev. Makoto Honda



母の日家族礼拝

2013年5月12日

午前10時

メッセージ：本 多 真 開教使

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817

Telephone (808) 531-9088