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## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

6  
June 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

## 11TH WORLD DOBO CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

EDMUND NAKANO

*Our Higashi Hongwanji denomination encompasses 30 districts in Japan, including Okinawa, plus three overseas districts: North America, South America and Hawaii. We recently participated in the 11th World Dobo Convention in Kyoto. In subsequent issues, we will share the experiences of other participants of the 11th World Dobo Convention with everyone.*

The 11th World Dobo Convention was held from May 8 to 10, 2013, in Kyoto, Japan, with the theme, "Now, Life is living you." More than 300 followers from around the world gathered to listen to the teachings of Shinran Shonin to reflect upon their lives and find true directions for themselves. Besides Japan, participants came from North America, South America and Hawaii, including 25 members from the Betsuin and the Hilo and Kaneohe temples. Among the highlights for the Hawaii participants:

### Wednesday, May 8

After enjoying a multi-course Japanese bento lunch at Honzan's picturesque Shoseien Garden, we attended the opening ceremony at Founder's Hall featuring Abbot Otani, and Bishops Sato'o, Ikeda, Kikuchi, Ito, Kawawata and Sagara. Roy Hamakawa of Hilo represented Hawaii district in the candle procession, while Betsuin's Ken Saiki offered incense. The ceremony was followed by Rev. Yutai Ikeda's lecture, "Shinran Shonin and the Contemporary World," at the Rihga Royal Hotel, after which the various districts made their reports. Rev. Osa's impressive PowerPoint presentation of the Hawaii district's activities was especially vivid with a vocal and ukulele track



*Betsuin contingent seated at Founder's Hall*

of "Henehene Kou Aka" by Israel Kamakawiwoole. We also enjoyed a buffet dinner at the hotel that evening and raised \$4,900 from the sale of donated items at the benefit bazaar to assist victims of the March 2011 tragedy.

### Thursday, May 9

Dobo convention participants spent the day at one of three educational tours (Lake Biwa cruise & Shiga temples tour, Osaka Higashi Betsuin & Castle tour and Otani Mausoleum & Kyoto temples tour). The evening's activities at the Rihga Royal commenced with a French cuisine dinner, followed by group talent performances by the overseas districts. Of course, from our biased, confirmed (by the audience) and humble perspective, the Hawaii entertainment received the most



*Cruising Lake Biwa heading to Nagahama; calligraphy improvisation by Mori-sensei.*

(continued on p. 2)

**DOBO HIGHLIGHTS** (continued from p. 1)

favorable comments. The Hawaii group, dressed in Aloha attire, impressed the audience with live music led by guitarists David Bellino and Bishop Ken Kawawata, ukulele players Keizaburo Tsuji, Ken Saiki, Ed Nakano and Rev. Hiroko Maeda, and the Hawaii group singing of *Yuuyake Koyake*, *The Hukilau Song*, *Hawaii Aloha* and *Aloha Oe*. Lead hula dance instructors Faye Shigemura and Mary Matsuda, with the support of the Hawaii participants, filled the stage with willing audience members, and danced gracefully to *The Hukilau Song*. The evening's entertainment concluded with spontaneous audience-influenced calligraphy by well-known artist, Hidekazu Mori, and soothing Okinawan folk songs by highly acclaimed singer, Misako Koja.

**Friday, May 10**

Following the closing ceremonies at Honzan's Founder's Hall, many of the Hawaii participants spent the remainder of the day shopping at nearby Kyoto shops including the well-priced and great selection Yodobashi retail store, which featured eight floors of shops and restaurants, and from my perspective, appeared to be a larger, upscale Shirokiya store.

The evening ended with another traditional multi-course Japanese dinner and with nostalgic sharing of memories with former Hawaii ministers, Rev. Makoto Mine and his wife, Rev. Ryo Masuda and his family and Rev. Takeo Maeda



at the Ganko Takasegawa Ni jo-en restaurant.

**Saturday, May 11**

From the historical urban city of Kyoto, we traveled via a four-hour bus ride to the mountainous country village of Shirakawa, where we enjoyed another traditional lunch, which included Japanese warabi and a unique miso-flavored steak. After lunch, we visited the village's Higashi Hongwanji temple located in the adjacent village's fallow rice fields, where rice is



*Myozenji and Shirakawa gassho-zukuri provided picturesque photo opportunities.*

seldom harvested due to declining demand and government subsidies to not grow rice. The bus journey was unique since

the Shirakawa and Takayama areas are accessible only by narrow and winding roads with many tunnels, one of which was six miles in length. I sat near the front of the bus and could attest to the bus driver's skills in safely negotiating the twists and turns, which reminded me of the 1950's Big Island Hamakua coast and Oahu Pali Highways. After Shirakawa, we visited the Higashi Hongwanji Takayama Betsuin which featured the resilient Ms. Hisako Nakamura (an extraordinary lady Buddhist follower with no arms and legs) and arrived at the Hodakasou Yamano Hotel that evening, where we all enjoyed the pleasures of bathing in both indoor and outdoor *onsen*. The evening concluded with another traditional Japanese dinner at our own private dining room, guitar music by David Bellino and karaoke.



*Hawaii Betsuin's own "nagashi," David Bellino.*

**Sunday, May 12**

After an early breakfast, benefiting from the clear skies and sun, we enjoyed the scenic, snow-filled Japanese Alps tour via the nearby aerial tram, which took us to near the top of one of the steep mountains. We traveled by bus to Takayama City, well known for its sake brewing, visited a sake factory which provided free sake tasting, enjoyed another traditional Japanese lunch and shopped for sake and omiyage at the village shops. We returned by bus to Osaka that evening for a high-class buffet dinner on the 54th floor of the Star Gate Hotel located next to Kansai International Airport, our departure point that evening to Honolulu. In addition to the great cuisine at this restaurant, we had an unobstructed and panoramic view of the airport and Osaka.

Thank you, Honzan, JTB and our Hawaii leaders Bishop Kawawata, Rev. Osa and Rev. Maeda for arranging and ensuring that we all experienced a memorable, spiritual, fun and friendship-filled convention. Thanks also go to all the participants, for their cooperation, teamwork and respect for others so we could all have an enjoyable and memorable experience. Hope to see you all again at the 2016 Dobo Convention in Los Angeles.



*Hawaii District World Dobo participants pause for a group shot.*



The Hawaii District delegation perform on stage in the Shunju Room at the Rihga Royal Hotel during the 11th World Dobo Convention in Kyoto, Japan. Audience members were invited to join the group in learning to dance the hula to the melody of "At the Hukilau." Frame capture of video by Emi Tsuji

### Dr. Michihiro Ama to headline joint retreat and public lecture

Buddhist scholar and author Dr. Michihiro Ama will serve as guest lecturer at the upcoming Dobo Joint Retreat at the Betsuin and also a public lecture the evening before.

The district retreat is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, starting at 10:00 am. As with our previous retreats, we will continue to focus on the theme of "How are we affected by Shoshinge through our district retreats."

An assistant professor of Japanese at the University of Alaska, Rev. Ama received his M.A. in Buddhist Studies from Otani University, Kyoto, Japan, and a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures from the University of California, Irvine.

Please let one of our ministers know if you plan to attend the retreat so that we can better plan seating and lunch arrangements for all participants.

On Friday, Dr. Ama will also present a special lecture on Shin Buddhism with the intriguing title, "A Neglected Diary, A Forgotten Buddhist Couple: Tana Daisho's

*Internment Camp Diary as a Historical and Literary Text."*

The lecture at the Betsuin begins promptly at 7:00 pm but we suggest you come early to ensure you are comfortably seated.

### 6/25 Movie Night features award-winning "Departures"

Winner of an Academy Award in 2008 for Best Foreign Film and 10 Japan Academy prize awards, the powerfully moving *Departures* depicts the life of Daigo, a *nokanshi* funeral professional. While working with families of the departed, Daigo embarks on a spiritual journey of his own as he finally experiences the joy and wonder of living. Japanese audio with English subtitles.

Showtime is 6:30 pm on June 25. Admission is FREE. Ample seating in the Fukuhara Conference Room.

### おくりびと

2008年の日本映画。滝田洋二郎が監督を務め、第81回アカデミー賞外国語映画賞、および第32回日本アカデミー賞最優秀作品賞などを受賞した。出演者：本木雅弘 広末涼子 山崎努。言語：日本語、字幕：英語  
上映時間：130分 入場無料  
6月25日（火）午後6：30時

### Father's Day Family Service

June 16 is Father's Day this year. Feel free to bring all the "dads" in your life to the Betsuin's special Father's Day Family service, starting at 10 am, to help commemorate the special place fathers have in our families.

### Temple closed 6/19 - 21

The main temple building will not be accessible from June 19 -20 due to fumigation. The Otani Center, however, will remain open.

We apologize for this temporary inconvenience.

### HAWAII DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Please discuss the theme of the 750th Shinran Shonin memorial, "What is your true wish?" This is the tentative phrase that was set. We would like to discuss the theme proposal at your temple so that we can come to a mutual decision.



# In the Spotlight

## JAMES HIRAKAWA

Our recently elected addition to the Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin board is James Hirakawa. He finds his new duties very different from his day job.

Jim is the second generation proprietor of Palolo Auto Service, the 76 service station at the corner of Waiialae & Palolo avenues. He says that all decisions at the station only require a short talk with his son, Ross, whereas, at the *otera*, the discussions often involve input from many people, which can stretch over days and weeks.

Serving the temple as a member is important to him, especially when



Jim Hirakawa's ready smile and pleasant demeanor has greeted thousands of customers at his service station through the decades.

it comes to the maintenance of its four vehicles. He makes sure the Betsuin's cars are always running smoothly so the temple can fulfill

all its activities and functions in the community without worry.

His son's resistance to his dad at work will at times melt when Ross recalls being stalled in Kailua in his friend's car. Attempting to borrow equipment to fix the problem, all the service station owners would gruffly tell him they don't lend tools. When they hear that his father is Jim Hirakawa, however, suddenly their tools are lent happily. Ross realizes that other service station owners respect his dad.

Palolo Auto Service has a spotless reputation for its service, honesty and reasonable pricing. Jim is a member of the State Motor Vehicle Industry Repair Board, which regulates the auto repair industry.

Jim is also a volunteer at the Queen's Medical Center for five

hours every Thursday morning at the information desk. Helping Japanese-speaking visitors and patients is needed on occasion. His mother, who graduated from high school in Yamaguchi-ken, spoke only Japanese to him. Now he sees it as a stroke of good fortune. Even his customers from Japan will recommend him to their friends as someone they can trust.

To add to his busy schedule, Jim volunteers to drive his granddaughter, Chaisie, to her singing, piano, guitar and drill team lessons. So Grandpa is Chaisie's hero.

His wife, Florence, says that by realizing Jim's effect on others, the family's vision of life has expanded and made them more aware.

By the way, have you noticed Jim's long ear lobes?

## SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR JUNE

Our June 2 shotsuki service is our monthly remembrance of our temple family members who passed away in June of a past year. At this month's shotsuki service we honor and pay respects to:

- |                       |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dorothy T. Akamine    | Fusano Michioku       | Kenneth Mutsuo Sugai    |
| Masato Arima          | Sadako Morita         | Yoshitaka Tachibana     |
| Eddy S. Chinen        | Michino Murakami      | Kenneth Kiyoshi Tagami  |
| Matsuichi Fujimoto    | Lois K. Muramoto      | Charles F. Taketa       |
| Doris S. Fukuda       | Mitsuko Nakahara      | Joe Tanaka              |
| Philip T. Fukushima   | Kiyoumi Nakamura      | Stanley H. Tanaka       |
| Teruko Hamamoto       | George Yoshio Nii     | Hazel K. Tanijo         |
| Hajime Harauchi       | Katsumi Nishida       | Sue Tanimura            |
| Charles K. Ifuku      | Matsutaro Nishimura   | Yutaka Teshima          |
| Momoe Inouye          | Katsumi Nomura        | Vivian Toshiko Tomita   |
| Betsy Momoyo Ishii    | Aileen T. Ogawa       | Edward G. Tsubaki       |
| Hatsue Ishimatsu      | Wallace H. Oi         | Harry Hideo Tsukamoto   |
| Kenneth T. Iwasaki    | Kazuo "Bob" Okazaki   | Geroge T. Uchida        |
| Sute Kakugawa         | Satsuki Omura         | Charles S. Uchihara     |
| Yoshiyuki Kawakami    | Kikue Saida           | Shigeru Uyeunten        |
| Masayo Kogami         | Shizuko Saiki         | Florence Watanabe       |
| Thomas T. Kojima      | Katsue Sakai Takeuchi | Peter Y. Watanabe       |
| Ethel T. Komatsu      | Henry K. Sakamoto     | Ted T. Yamamoto         |
| Ima Kono              | Kenneth W. Sakamoto   | Russell Ken Yamamoto    |
| Hideto Kubota         | Sadaichi Sakamoto     | Marilyn Shizue Yanagida |
| Jitsuzen Makiya       | Sadao Sasabuchi       | George M. Yokokawa      |
| Kiyoshi Matsumoto     | Shizue Sekiya         | Chima Yoshimura         |
| Leatrice C. Matsumoto | Shinichi Shiroma      | George H. Yoshino       |

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. Please consult a minister for more information.



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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### JUNE 2013

6/2	Sun	10 am	<b>Shotsuki service</b>
6/2	Sun	12 pm	<b>Basic Buddhism study class</b> 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
6/7	Fri	7 pm	<b>Public lecture by Rev. Ama</b>
6/8	Sat	10 am	<b>Joint retreat at Betsuin</b>
6/9	Sun	10 am	<b>Joint retreat at Hilo</b>
6/9	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
6/13	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata
6/15	Sat	10 am	<b>What on Earth is Namuamidabutsu?</b> Study class led by Rev. Frank Childs
6/16	Sun	10 am	<b>Father's Day family service</b>
6/16	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
6/18	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-ko:</b> Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
6/19-21	<b>Temple closed for fumigation</b> (Otani Center open)		
6/23	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
6/25	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: Departures (おくりびと)</b> Japanese audio/English subtitles
6/30	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>

### JULY 2013

7/6	Sat	6:30 pm	<b>Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji bon dance</b> (Obon service at 6:00 pm)
7/7	Sun	10 am	<b>Shotsuki service</b>
7/7	Sun	12 pm	<b>Basic Buddhism study class</b> 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room
7/11	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata
7/13	Sat	10 am	<b>What on Earth is Namuamidabutsu?</b> Study class led by Rev. Frank Childs
7/14	Sun	10 am	<b>Obon/Hatsubon service</b>
7/21	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
7/21	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting/yagura setup</b> Fukuhara Conference Room
7/23	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-ko:</b> Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
7/26	Fri	7:00 pm	<b>Bon dance (Manto-e service at 6:30 pm)</b>
7/27	Sat	7:00 pm	<b>Bon dance (Manto-e service at 6:30 pm)</b>
7/28	Sun	10 am	<b>Bon dance cleanup (No service)</b>
7/30	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: The Funeral (お葬式)</b> Japanese audio/English subtitles

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

# Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District

## Dobo Joint Retreat

Theme: *How are we affected by Shoshinge,  
through our district retreats.*



Dr. Michihiro Ama

Date: June 8, 2013 (Sat) At Hawaii Betsuin (Oahu Island, Honolulu)  
June 9, 2013 (Sun) At Hilo Higashi Hongwanji (Big Island)

Place: Hawaii Betuin, Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (6/8)  
1685 Alaneo St. Honolulu, HI 96817  
Hilo Higashi Hongwanji (6/9)  
216 Mohouli St., Hilo, HI 96720

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.(Both dates)(Lunch will be provided)

Lecturer: Dr. Michihiro Ama

**Dr. Michihiro Ama** received his Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures from the University of California, Irvine. He is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He is the author of *Immigrants to the Pure Land: The Modernization, Acculturation, and Globalization of Shin Buddhism, 1898-1941* published by the University of Hawai'i Press (2011).

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please call your temple or  
Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Office: (808)531-1231

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Detach here and give to your minister

I would like to participate in the Dobo Joint Retreat,

On June 8<sup>th</sup> at Hawaii Betsuin in Honolulu.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> at Hilo Higashi Hongwanji in Big island.

Your Name

Temple

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# Special Lecture on Shin Buddhism

**Shinshu Center of America**

**Free and Open to the Public**

**Place:** Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu



**Dr. Michihiro Ama**

**Date and Time:** Friday, June 7, 2013  
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**Lecturer:** Dr. Michihiro Ama

**Lecture Title:**

**A Neglected Diary, A Forgotten Buddhist Couple:  
Tana Daishō's Internment Camp Diary as a Historical and Literary Text**

During four years of internment caused by World War II, Tana Daishō, a Shin Buddhist minister, kept a diary in Japanese. After his death, his wife, Tana Tomoe, published his writings under the title *Santa Fe Rōzubāgu senji tekikokujin yokuryusho nikki* (*A Diary of An Enemy Alien in Santa Fe and Lordsburg Internment Camps*, hereafter *The Internment Camp Diary*) in four volumes between 1976 and 1989. The diary begins on December 7, 1941—the day the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor, leading to Tana's arrest three months later by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and separation from his family—and ends on March 31, 1946—three days before his release by the War Relocation Authority. This study explores the place of Tomoe's poetry in the work and examines the diary as a textual device by which Tana sought his identity and reconstructed his religion.

**Dr. Michihiro Ama** received his Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures from the University of California, Irvine. He is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He is the author of *Immigrants to the Pure Land: The Modernization, Acculturation, and Globalization of Shin Buddhism, 1898-1941* published by the University of Hawai'i Press (2011).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Office: (808)531-1231