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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

10
October 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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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

WHY WE GATHER AT HO-ON-KO

Bishop Kenjun Kawawata

This month we observe Ho-on-ko, the memorial service for the founder of our Jodo Shinshu denomination, Shinran Shonin, who died on Nov. 28, 1226, in Kyoto, Japan.

Every year, from Nov. 21 through 28, there are special commemoration services at the head temple in Kyoto, as well as at all branch temples in Japan, the United States and South America.

Ho-on-ko is the most important occasion for followers of Jodo Shinshu, and is the most meaningful memorial service because we are the ones who listen to and live by the teachings of Shinran Shonin.

In our calendar of events, Ho-on-ko marks the end of one year and the beginning of a new year. It is time for us come together to sit in front of our teacher, Shinran Shonin, and listen earnestly to the teachings and re-examine our lives according to his words and his life.

Ho-on-ko is not just a memorial service for Shinran Shonin, but the phrase itself is full of deep meaning for us. “Hō-on” (報恩) means “to express gratitude for what we have received,” while “kō” (講) is “to explain to make the meaning clearer,” or “to gather and come together as a group.”

Therefore Ho-on-ko is the occasion when we express our gratitude by listening to and living by the teachings more thoroughly.

For Shinran Shonin, receiving the true essence of Nembutsu teaching brought him to a most fulfilling life. He could not help but feel grateful towards his teacher and all those who enabled him to encounter the teachings.

In his poem *Ondokusan*, he is saying, “To Amida Buddha with the great compassionate heart and to all my teachers from Shakyamuni to Honen, each one opening the path of the *nembutsu* for me, I will express deep gratitude with my entire being.”

Ho-on-ko should be a meaningful occasion for each of us if we can truly feel grateful for receiving the teachings, which enable us to live our lives fully. During Ho-on-ko time we express our gratitude and listen to Shinran Shonin’s teaching and re-examine our belief (entrust, or *shinjin*) again. What kind of daily lives can we have, if we have a real entrusting heart (*shinjin*)?

(continued on p. 2)

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HO-ON-KO EVENTS THIS MONTH AT THE BETSUIN

Our Betsuin **Ho-on-ko Service** will be observed on Sunday, Oct. 20, starting at 10 a.m. Rev. Ken Yamada, resident minister at the Berkeley Higashi Honganji, will present the dharma message. Everyone is welcome to attend.

In addition, there will be special **Ho-on-ko Gathering** the day before, on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rev. Yamada will present “**Help! I Need Buddhism Now!**” (Decoding Buddha, Shinran and Myself). Fee for the Saturday gathering, which includes lunch, is \$10. You may register for this event by mail or in person at the temple office. Call 531-9088 if you have questions.



Rev. Ken Yamada

Ho-on-ko (cont'd from p. 1)

Shinran was born as the son of low-ranking aristocrats. His mother died and his father left him when he was very young, so he entered the priesthood at Mt. Hiei at the age of 9.

He studied Tendai (Mahayana) doctrine for 20 years. He kept precepts, meditated and chanted sutras. But those practices did not lead him to Buddhahood. He became depressed and felt miserable. He couldn't understand why he was unsuccessful. At that time he realized he was not well and needed a doctor and medicine. He set out to find a doctor and medicine for curing his sickness.

Then at age 29, he met Honen Shonin and was liberated. Shinran was deeply moved by Honen. This

was a radical change in his life. Shinran became a follower of Honen. He had found a doctor, teacher and medicine, the teaching of the *nembutsu*.

The result of his 20 years of practice with the Tendai sect was the realization of his own foolishness and incompetence. This realization — and the encounter with his teacher, Honen — resulted in his gaining humility. Humbleness and humility made him realize non-self, selflessness.

Shinran Shonin achieved the same awakening as Shakyamuni Buddha going through a way opposite of general Buddhism. However, both ways of Buddhism can lead us to have the state of selflessness, or “awakening of true self.”

After six peaceful years with Honen,

Shinran was exiled by the government and sent to Echigo province (contemporary Niigata prefecture). Following his pardon at age 41, he moved to the Kanto area near present-day Tokyo. Then, at 62, he returned to the Kyoto area, where he lived for nearly 30 years.

He left many writings for his dharma friends, the *nembutsu* followers. He lived a creative life, much like Shakyamuni Buddha's for 50 years, until he died at the ripe old age of 90.

We can see that the lives and teachings of Shakyamuni and Shinran were nearly identical. They walked the same path of awakening and led dynamic and creative lives.

Jodo Shinshu is in the mainstream of Buddhism.

What's in a Name?

Remember Rap Reiplinger's hilarious routine, “Japanese Roll Call,” in which he poked fun at Japanese names with all the interchangeable syllables?

“...Hirayama, Yamanaka, Nakashima, Shimakura, Kurasato, Satogata, Gotta go nowwww!”

Some 90% of Japanese last names come from place names, such as villages or landscape features.

We all probably know someone named Sato, Suzuki or Takahashi because those are the top three most common Japanese names. I'm willing to bet you don't know many people named Kunomasu, Hyobanshi or Tankoshitsu. The Japanese have more than 120,000 different last names, but more than half the population can be found in the top 250 or so surnames.

Compare that with China, where there are a total of only about 300 surnames currently used. About half of the country's population share one of just 20 last names. If you guessed Wong is number one, you're right!

In Korea, where there are only about 200 unique last names, more than half the people are either Kim, Lee or Park. Similarly, in Vietnam 60% of the population are named Nguyen, Tran or Le.

Sato and Suzuki each have about two million people in Japan sharing those names. But here in Hawaii the Nakamuras and Tanakas outnumber both the Satos and Suzukis.

Why is this so? Well, Nakamura and Tanaka happen to be among the most common names in Western Japan, which includes the prefectures of Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka and Kumamoto, from where the majority of contract laborers immigrated and consequently, where most Japanese-Americans in Hawaii today trace their roots.

Family names provide some clues as to where one's ancestral roots lie. To pinpoint exactly where

your ancestors came from requires further research.

Fortunately there are various resources available to help us discover more about our heritage. For example, our temple library has genealogy manuals as well as a directory of all Japanese living in Hawaii in the 1930's, including occupations, addresses and home prefectures. Other temple documents, such as *kakocho*, or death register, may also help.

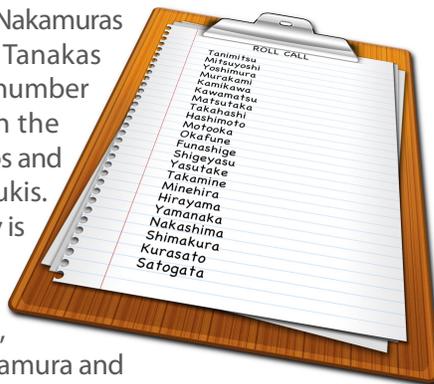
We are considering starting an informal study group to meet at the Betsuin and help people find out more about their roots.

We'll discuss the process of getting a *koseki tohon*, or Japanese birth certificate, and should you be successful in obtaining one for your family, we'll help you decipher it.

In addition to genealogy study, we plan to check out family crests and discuss other unique Japanese customs and traditions.

We'd like to hear from you if you're interested in joining our heritage study group. Call the temple office at 531-9088 or email us at hhib@me.com.

– Ken Saiki



News on the Betsuin Wireless



Jeanne Kawawata helps Brady finish his nenju while his dad and Debra Saiki look on.

Sunday School Program Launches

Our "Golden Deer" Sunday School and Youth Activities program kicked off Sept. 15 with making hand-crafted *nenju* as its first activity.

The next meeting included a field trip to the quiet surrounds of Queen Emma Summer Palace garden in Nuuanu Valley, where the children could explore, enjoy and appreciate the many blessings of Nature.

Sunday School classes meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays every month, from 10 to 11:30 am.

Holiday crafts, zoo excursions, lunchtime outings in healthy, natural surroundings and introduction to live animals are among the exciting hands-on activities we are looking forward to with our youngsters.

If you'd like to find out more about our Sunday youth program, call Rev. Honda at 531-9088.



Mya and her mom work together to make nenju out of colorful beads.

"Jiro Dreams of Sushi" Is October Movie

This 2011 documentary follows Jiro Ono, an 85-year-old sushi master and owner of a Michelin 3-star restaurant Sukiyabashi Jiro, on his continuing quest to perfect the art of sushi. Japanese audio and English subtitles. 81 minutes.

Showtime is 6:30 pm on Oct. 22. Admission is FREE. Ample seating in the Fukuhara Conference Room.

二郎は鮨の夢を見る

2011年のドキュメンタリー映画。85歳の寿司職人で「すきやばし次郎」の店主である小野二郎を追い、すしの技を極めようと探求し続けるその姿と、伝説的存在である父に追いつくべく奮闘する長男禎一を捉えた作品。

日本語、英語字幕 映時間：81分
入場無料
10月22 (火) 午後6:30時

SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR OCTOBER

Our October 6 service is our monthly shotsuki remembrance of our temple family members who passed away in October of a past year, including: (past 25 years only)

Yoshiko Anami
Tsuruko Asato
Thomas Tamotsu Fujihara
Helen Yukie Fujiki
Takeshi Fujishige
Ryonosuke Fujisue
Gladys Sakiko Fujiwara
Ted Tsuruo Gono
Clarence Haruo Hanai
Harry Yasumasa Higa
Hisako Hirakawa
Tatsuo Hiraki
Myles Kuro Hirata
Kinsuke Hosogai
Patrick Miyao Imamura
Yoshio Inouye
George Toshio Ishii
Thomas Masayuki Ishimoto
Terri Mitsuko Kamihara

Doris Shizue Kaneshiro
Brandon Mitsuo Kawasaki
Taichi Kimura
Robert Isamu Koyama
Susumu Kunishige
Yoshio Kunitomo
Hideo Matsuo
May Mizue Miura
Robert Shigeyoshi Murakami
Hajime Nishizawa
Kikue Nonaka
Irene Teruko Odagiri
Deann Sanae Oi
Richard Asao Okuda
Helen Hisako Okuda
Ushi Oshiro
Yoshito Sagawa
Elton Hiroshi Sakamoto
Makaa Shimabukuro
Toshio Shimamura
Toshiki Shimizu
Toshio Shinko
Milton Shigeru Shishido
Torao Shizuru
George Kumato Sonoda

Taiji Suzuki
Kazuto Taketa
George Yoshiro Tanaka
Judith Fumiye Tokunaga
Katsuko Tsukamoto
Steven Kenji Uesato
Stanley Takito Ujimori
Mitsuko Uyehara
Tsugi Watase
Hatsumi Yamada
Take Yamamoto
Susumu Yamashita

IN MEMORIAM

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the late

Mrs. Florence Yaeko Hirakawa (82)
September 5, 2013

Mrs. Elaine Mitsuko Yamashita (87)
September 15, 2013



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

- **Why we gather at Ho-on-ko** p. 1
- **Help! I need Buddhism now!** p. 1
- **What's in a name?** p. 2
- **October acknowledgments**
(to be published in November Wa)
- **Shotsuki observance for October** p. 3
- **News on the Betsuin Wireless** p. 3
- **Temple activities calendar** p. 4

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2013

10/6 Sun 10 am	Shotsuki/Perpetual memorial service & Sunday school
10/6 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
10/8 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
10/10 Thu 7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
10/12 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
10/13 Sun 10 am	Short Sunday service & Sunday school Omigaki (<i>Polishing of altar implements</i>)
10/13 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
10/15 Tue 7 pm	O-ko: Informal Dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
10/19 Sat 10 am	Ho-on-ko gathering
10/20 Sun 10 am	Betsuin Ho-on-ko service
10/22 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
10/22 Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: Jiro Dreams of Sushi
10/27 Sun 10 am	Kaneohe Ho-on-ko (no service at Betsuin)
10/28 Mon 1pm	Recitation circle

NOVEMBER 2013

11/3 Sun 10 am	Shotsuki memorial service & Sunday school
11/3 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
11/5 Tue 7 pm	Lecture series 1 - Dr. George Tanabe
11/7 Thu 7 pm	Lecture series 2 - Dr. George Tanabe
11/9 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
11/10 Sun 10 am	Sunday service
11/12 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/12 Tue 7 pm	Lecture series 3 - Dr. George Tanabe
11/14 Thu 7 pm	Lecture series 4 - Dr. George Tanabe (no ABCs of Buddhism study class)
11/17 Sun 10 am	Sunday service & Sunday school
11/17 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
11/19 Tue 7 pm	O-ko: Dharma discussion (<i>Kaneohe</i>)
11/24 Sun 10 am	Palolo Hongwanji Ho-on-ko service (No service at Betsuin)
11/25 Mon 1 pm	Recitation circle (<i>moved up from 11/28</i>)
11/26 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/26 Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: Ikiru

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



Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

October 1, 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

The Higashi Hongwanji of Mission of Hawaii and its Board of Directors cordially invite you to attend the Hoonko Service and Hoonko Gathering which will be held on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20, 2013. The schedule for the service and gathering are as follows:

Hoonko Gathering

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Speaker: Rev. Ken Yamada
(Berkeley Higashi Honganji)

Hoonko Service

Date: Sunday, October 20, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Speaker: Rev. Ken Yamada
(Berkeley Higashi Honganji)

We will be serving Otoki Lunch immediately following the service.

Hoonko Service is the memorial service of our founder, Shinran Shonin. We gather to express our appreciation to Shinran Shonin for showing us the teaching of Nembutsu.
Gassho,

Kenjun Kawawata, Rinban

Faye Shigemura, President

啓拝

みなさまにおかれましてはお元気にお過ごしのことと存じます。さて今年も報恩講の季節がやってきました。報恩講は親鸞聖人のご命日法要で私どもの信仰生活を見直す機会とされてまいりました。本年は下記の如く報恩講法要を厳修いたしますのでご案内申し上げます。

記

報恩講法要

日 時： 2013年10月20日午前10時
英語法話： 山田ケン師
(バークレー東本願寺開教使)

以上の予定となっております。どうぞご家族お揃いで法要にお参りください。

合 掌

輪 番 河和田 賢淳

教団理事長 重村 フェイ

Help!
I need Buddhism Now!
(Decoding Buddha, Shinran
and myself)

**Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Ho-on-ko Gathering 2013**



Date: **Saturday, October 19, 2013**
Time: **10:00 am — 3:00 pm**
Speaker: **Rev. Ken Yamada**
Minister, Berkeley Higashi Honganji
Location: **Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu
(corner N. Kuakini St.)
Fee: **\$10.00** (includes lunch)
(payable to Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)

Rev. Ken Yamada

1980, University of California, Berkeley, B.S. Sociology
1982 - 1983, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley
1984 - 1986, Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin, Kyoto
1988 - 2004, Writer and reporter for various publications, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Newsday*,
The Wall Street Journal, *USA Today*, *Red Herring Magazine*
2005 - present, Minister, Berkeley Higashi Honganji

Questions? Please contact the temple office at 531-9088 • Fax: 531-3265 • Email: hhhb@me.com

✂ Clip here and return

**Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Ho-on-ko Gathering 2013 • Saturday, October 19, 2013**

YES! I would like to participate in the Ho-on-ko Gathering 2013 with guest speaker Rev. Ken Yamada.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

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