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**'WA'**  
harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

January **1** 2014

### 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

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

**Bishop Ko-i Sato'o**

Chief Administrator

Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of you in the South America, Hawaii and North America overseas districts a Happy New Year.

I would also like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

Upon reflection, it seems that the entire world is enmeshed in unstable political conditions, in situations where ethnic groups stand in opposition to each other, the world falling deeper into a state of stupor with no release in sight.



In our Sangha as well, the current state of affairs has created challenges that we must face. We see an increase in those who no longer consider religion to be necessary in one's life. We see large numbers of people cutting their ties with their family temples.

At the Diet sessions last year, I proposed that we reconsider the deep wish of Dharmākara Bodhisattva and establish the idea of "transmitting" as our focus for today. "To hand over the teaching of Nenbutsu of the Primal Vow," "to share that which should be transmitted faithfully"...this, I believe, should be the basis upon how we proceed.

We must engage in today's world which can only be described using the words of the sutra, "the world of defilement," by reevaluating how we have been making the effort to "transmit" the teachings, and then open up new and more effective ways to make our temples places where the Buddhadharma can be "transmitted" faithfully.

Related to this plan is the work to reactivate the Shinshu Center of America in the North America district. In addition to the current effort to translate and publish works of our tradition, other important goals are to nurture potential ministers, to work together with the Hawaii and South America districts to conduct training sessions for ministers who are active overseas, to promote programs for members and the public, and to increase relationships with academic entities.

In this way, we commit ourselves to the fundamental idea of "transmitting" the teachings actively so that they can be made available to those we live together with today. This year again, we ask for your support and cooperation in this endeavor.

# New Year Greetings

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who supported this Betsuin over the past year. Without your support, we could not have such a successful year at our temple.

I also would like to thank our board of president, Mrs. Faye Shigemura, and our board members, who enthusiastically led this sangha for the past year. We really had a wonderful 2013.

I wish that we will also have a successful and wonderful year in 2014.

As you may have already heard, we will celebrate our Betsuin's centennial in the year 2016 and our Hawaii District will observe 750th Memorial Service for our founder, Shinran Shonin, at the same time. The Betsuin will commence preparations for this historical event and service this year.



For a hundred years now, this Betsuin has been serving as a place for listening to the dharma and a gathering place for our Japanese-American community. However, our community has undergone marked changes and we really have to rethink our future.

I am certain that the Betsuin will continue to serve as a place for listening to the dharma. We take this celebration of our centennial as an opportune occasion to pose the question, "What is our deepest aspiration?" As we ponder our individual lives, we need to think about what it really means to have our temple here and picture its future.

The temple board is considering repair and renovation for the occasion of our centennial celebration because our *hondo* is already 30 years old, needing repair and some restoration for the altar and the building itself.

So from this year, we will step forward to our centennial celebration in year of 2016. I would like to ask for your support and cooperation through this coming year, too.

And I wish that you will listen to the dharma together with us and have a meaningful year. Thank you very much.

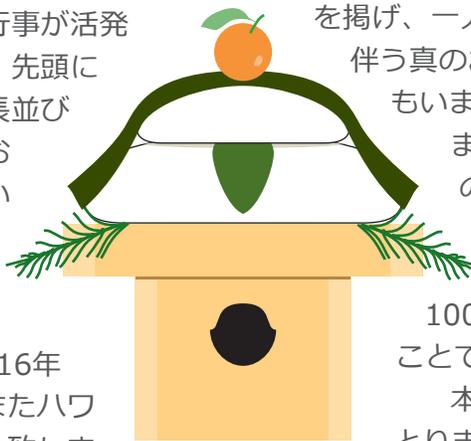
In Gassho

# 新年のご挨拶

輪番 河和田賢淳

皆様新年明けましておめでとうございます。昨年中は別院に対しまして多大なるご支援をいただきました事心より御礼申し上げます。皆様のご協力により別院の法要、教化事業並び諸行事が活発に行われ実りある年となりました。先頭に立って教団を牽引された重村理事長並び理事の皆様、またご門徒皆々様のお陰で素晴らしい一年を過ごさせていただきました。さて、2014年は私どもにとりましてどのような年になりましょう。

皆様もご存知の様に再来年、2016年は別院創立100周年を迎えます。またハワイ教区親鸞聖人750回御遠忌お勤め致します。別院でこの歴史的な年を盛大にお祝いすべく、その準備を進めて行く所存です。別院はこの



100年の間皆様の仏法聴聞の場、そして日系コミュニティの中心としての役割を果たして参りました。これからも仏法を中心として、お寺の役割を果たしてゆきたいと考えております。しかしご存知の様に日系社会も変化し、お寺のあり方を真剣に再考しなければならない時となりました。この100周年をご縁に「私どもの本当に願いとは？」という問いを掲げ、一人一人のいのち、人生、またそれに伴う真のお寺のあり方を問うて行きたいとおもいます。

また理事会では記念事業としてお寺の各所の補修並び改修事業を考えております。本年より2016年の親鸞聖人750回御遠忌並び別院創立100周年に向け新たな一歩が始まることです。

本年もご一緒に仏法聴聞され皆様にとりまして素晴らしい一年となります様念じます。また別院に対し皆様のご協力、ご支援を 宜しくお願い申し上げます。合掌

# Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Chairperson's New Year Message

Faye Shigemura

**W**hooh, the Year of the Snake just slithered by quickly. We say this year after year, and it frequently feels that the Earth is spinning faster. With many science fiction ideas becoming more like a reality, I can imagine ourselves flying off the globe, eventually.

2013 was a year of new activities and new ideas with more than one which would be considered "major."

## **Dobo Convention**

The first major was the Dobo Convention in Kyoto in May. Approximately 20 Hawaii participants flew to Japan and met participants from the U.S. mainland, South America and Japan. The highlight was our hula performance of *The Hukilau Song* on banquet night. The beauty of our presentation was that every single one of our group was full of excitement, and participated in weekly rehearsals and the actual performance.

Even with five temple locations, some on neighbor islands, we never thought that logistics would be a problem with rehearsals. Of course, it helped that our Hawaii delegation's performance was the best and the most exciting, with many enthusiastic audience participants. We were g-o-o-d!

## **Joint Retreat**

The next major was the Joint Retreat with Rev. Ken Yamada from Berkeley as the speaker. Many things can make an event a major: the number of participants, the cost and even the preparation.

What made this activity a major was the speaker. Rev. Ken touched our hearts deeply by sharing his

relationship with his deceased brother, after experiencing a feeling of personal defeat with Jodo Shinshu. He hit a wall and ricocheted back to Jodo Shinshu with the help of someone he deeply loved. The story he shared gave us a valuable lesson in *jiriki* and *tariki*. Unfortunately, he lost his brother, but he still retained the strength and desire to go on.

## **Bon Dance**

Our 2013 Bon Dance was a major, one we could call our most successful Bon Dance, ever. It started with a *Manto-e* service, a new additional activity to us, but a traditional Jodo Shinshu service. Everyone had an opportunity to purchase a special *manto-e* lantern, which was decorated with their names and those of deceased family members. The lanterns were hung high above the dancers and could later be taken home by the families.

We ran out of our popular food choices fairly early in the evening on both Friday and Saturday nights. With fish pond games and face-painting for the kids, we saw lots of new faces and received nice comments.

## **Dharma Study Center**

A definite major was our new Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Dharma Study Center. Bishop Ken Kawawata started a new lecture series, which was well-attended and had participants clamoring for more. Dr. George Tanabe was the speaker at our first lecture series. There are few who can compare with the knowledge and charisma of Dr. Tanabe, and we were very fortunate that he was able to be part of our inaugural program.

Bishop Kawawata and Rev. Frank Childs also conduct weekly classes including Basic Buddhism and "What On Earth is Namuamidabutsu?" Basic Buddhism is conducted in English and Japanese, on separate days.

## **Golden Deer Sunday School**

Jeanne Kawawata and Debra Saiki oversee our Golden Deer

Sunday School program. It's a good way to introduce children to religion, and teach discipline and respect, no matter what religious practice they may choose later in life.

Fun activities are there for your young children to enjoy while learning life-long lessons. No learning experience is ever wasted. The role of teachers is just as important as the role of parents.

## **Passing of Key Members**

Along with all our activities, we recently experienced some sad losses of key members of Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Calvin Shimazu, sadly passed away at the too-early age of 58. Miyoko Duesing died suddenly at age 82. We lost Hanae Kobata, widow of Rev. David Kobata, in mid-December at age 92. All three were familiar faces in our hallways. Although we can't list by name everyone in our temple family whom we lost in 2013 in this article, we offer our sincere condolences to grieving family members.

What brought me back to this temple after a long hiatus of child-bearing and a work career, was the passing of my mother. I wanted to be close to her, so I started coming to the temple, where I found comfort in the kindness of the ministers and a better understanding of life and death as I sat through dharma lessons and lectures and discussions.

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is open to all who would like to come. If you wish to find comfort through the temple and learn more about Jodo Shinshu, please attend any of our public classes. If you would like help in discussing issues, you may call the temple at 531-9088 and speak with Rev. Makoto Honda, resident minister, or Rinban Ken Kawawata to make an appointment or confirm the ministers' availability. This is your temple. Just do it!

Have a safe 2014, and see you at the temple!

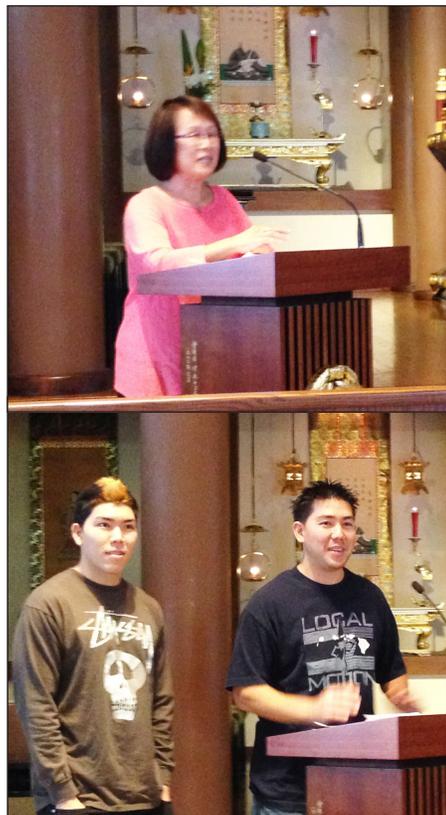


## Honzan Hōshidan returnees speak at Bodhi Day service

Three Betsuin representatives returning from the 2013 Honzan Hōshidan in Japan during Hō-on-ko in late November related their experiences the Betsuin's Dec. 15 Bodhi Day service.

Debra Saiki and brothers John and Ridge Ishikawa each spent a few minutes describing their experiences at the annual pilgrimage to Kyoto.

They were unanimous on three things: it was very cold during early morning services even with multiple layers of clothing, food everywhere in Japan is great and Rev. Michael Conway's dharma study lessons were presented in understandable terms and easily digestible concepts.



**Top:** Debbie Saiki talks about her hoshidan impressions. **Bottom:** Ridge (left) and John Ishikawa describe their adventures on their first-time trip to Japan.

For John and Ridge, it was also their first trip to their ancestral homeland, so for them the hōshidan was a real adventure. They even extended their stay in Japan to explore Osaka and Tokyo.

All three from the Betsuin hope to apply the newly found knowledge acquired during the hōshidan to their everyday lives.

The Honzan Hōshidan is a group pilgrimage and tour that includes a three-day study retreat at our denomination's main temple in Kyoto as well as visits to other historic sites.

The hope is that the Honzan Hōshidan participants will be able to experience temple life and feel the long history of the Jodo Shinshu tradition through the hōshidan activities and the special atmosphere of the Hō-on-ko services.

## Akira Kurosawa classic *Ikiru* featured on Movie Night

*Ikiru*, ("To Live") is a 1952 Japanese film co-written and directed by Akira Kurosawa. The award-winning black-and-white film examines the struggles of a Tokyo bureaucrat and his final quest for meaning. The film is inspired by the Leo Tolstoy short story "The Death of Ivan Ilyich."

Stars Takashi Shimura as Kanji Watanabe. 143 minutes. Japanese audio with English subtitles.

The late film critic Roger Ebert called it Kurosawa's greatest film and watched it time and time again. He famously said, "The older I get, the less Watanabe seems like a pathetic old man, and the more he seems like every one of us."

Free admission. Showtime is 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 28. Ample seating in the Fukuhara Conference Room.

## 生きる (いきる)

1952年に公開された日本映画である。監督は黒澤明、主演は志村喬による。数ある黒澤監督作品の中でも、そのヒューマニズムが頂点に達した作品と評価される名作。その題名通り「生きる」という普遍的なテーマに真っ向から切り込んだ作品であり、時代劇の印象が強い黒澤の、現代劇での代表作である。脚本はレフ・トルストイの「イワン・イリイチの死」が下敷きにされており、作中にそれを暗示するせりふも盛り込まれている。

言語：日本語、字幕：英語 上映時間：143分 入場無料 1月28日 (火) 午後6:30時

## Class schedule change

Rev. Frank Child's *What on Earth is Namuamidabutsu?* class for January, normally held on the second Saturday, has been rescheduled to Saturday, Jan. 18, at 10 am because of a wedding being held at the temple on January 11.

## Monthly Shinran Shonin memorial service on 28th

Shinran Shonin, the founder of our Jodo Shinshu denomination, was born in 1173 and died at age 90 on November 28, 1262.

Thus the 28th day of every month is observed as Shinran's *meinichi*, or death anniversary memorial date.

You are welcome to attend the monthly memorial service for Shinran Shonin, starting at 10 am on the 28th day of every month.

Our monthly "recitation circle" will be held following the memorial service, at about 11 am. At our recitation circle, group members take turns reading passages from a dharma text or other publication. We welcome you to drop by and join our circle.

## Little Differences: Fruits, Vegetables, Culture & People

Arriving in England to study, I experienced severe culture shock. One of my first big surprises was when I went to a supermarket and saw that the produce on display weren't uniform in size and shape. Misshapen and smaller than usual fruits and vegetables were stacked in the same bin and sold together with the normal ones.

In Japan I was used to seeing them all the same size and same shape. I never had any question about it because that is how it



The various fruits displayed at a Sapporo fruit stand are uniform in size and shape.

always was. So when I saw veggies and fruits in England, they did not look yummy at all.

I once saw a Japanese TV program about a farmer growing grapes. He only sold the ones that passed a high standard in the shape of the bunch and the size of each grape. Only then did the grapes qualify to be sold at a good price.

So if even one grape drops from bunch, then that bunch of grapes is no longer considered good enough to fetch market price. Any bunches that fail to meet the standard will be disposed of or sold at a really cheap price, even if they taste exactly the same.

If you have the opportunity to go to Japan, please take a look in a supermarket. You'll notice that all of the veggies and fruits are exactly the same size and same shape. I think that supermarkets in Hawaii are somewhere between Japan and England, not as strict as Japan but not as accepting as England.

– Rev. Makoto Honda

## 2014 ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICES

Special anniversary memorial services are observed during certain auspicious years following the passing of an individual.

This year we will observe special anniversary memorial services of those who passed away in the following years:

- 2013** 1st anniversary
- 2012** 3rd year memorial
- 2008** 7th year memorial
- 2002** 13th year memorial
- 1998** 17th year memorial
- 1990** 25th year memorial
- 1982** 33rd year memorial
- 1965** 50th year memorial

To schedule an anniversary memorial service, please call the Betsuin office at 531-9088.

### At-home services available.

Whether it's because mobility difficulties, convenience or just preferring the comfort of your own home, ministers can also conduct services at your location.

## SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR JANUARY

Our monthly shotsuki remembrance service will be held on Sunday, January 5, to allow family members to express thanks to those who preceded them and, at the same time, have an opportunity to listen to the dharma. Following is a list which includes Betsuin members who passed away in January of a past year:

Edward K. Anami	Yoshie Ishimatsu	Jane N. Miyashiro	Ichiji Okamoto	Violet S. Uyesato
Kazuko Arakawa	Harry Y. Iwanaga	Sharie Keiko Miyazaki	Hiromu Okihiro	Richard Y. Wataru
Tomi Asato	Yuhiro Iwasaki	Noboru Miyazaki	Shizuka Onishi	Jean T. Yamamoto
Janet Emiko Cho	Takumi Kajioka	Masayuki Mori	Isamu Oshiro	Kikumi Yamato
Shirley Shizue Curek	Kenneth K. Kawada	James S. Murotake	Shizue Otsuka	Susumu Yamauchi
Nobuyuki Fukunaga	Harriet I. Kawakami	Masao Nakahara	Sadao Shinkawa	William H. Yamura
Harold K. Hamamoto	Mabel Shinano Kihara	Gary T. Nakasato	Kiyoshi Shinsato	Elsie K. Yoshimura
Darrell Kazumi Higa	Tetsuo Koga	Shizuko Nakasone	Akino Shirabe	Lester S. Yoshino
Masaichi Higa	Kimiko Kubo	Shigeto Nishimura	Itoko Sueyoshi	Hisao Yukawa
Arthur T. Hiroshima	Takeo Maekawa	Fred M. Nishiyama	Alice Hatsumi Sur	Shizuko Yamanuha
Shigeko Hosaka	Tamiko K. Mashima	Colleen C. Nishiyama	Hideko Takaki	Sumiko Yamashita
Betty Midori Hoshino	Naka Mesaku	Neil H. Nishizawa	Ethel T. Takamatsu	Ethel H. Yamashita
George Shinichi Ige	Yuiko Michioku	Leatrice S. Nomura	Nobuyo Tanaka	Shizuko Yonemura
Sadami Ikeda	Jitsuo Mimuro	Tsuya Oasa	Tome Tokunaga	
Dorothea F. Inoshita	Rihachi Mitomi	Robert Mamoru Oba	Tadakazu Tsuda	<i>(Listing includes past</i>
Sadame Ishida	Grace Tamie Mitsuka	Toyome Ogata	Richard M. Uchida	<i>25 years only)</i>

## New Year Resolutions, Dharma-Style

Many people make New Year's resolutions and most of us fail, often making the same ones year after year and failing year after year.

Among the most popular resolutions include losing weight and improving finances, but as the old joke goes, instead of achieving a slimmer waistline and a fatter wallet, it's usually the other way around.

From the Interdependence Project (IDP), a Buddhist study center in New York committed to personal development, comes the following dharmically based New Year's resolutions you may wish to consider:

**1. Set aside at least a few minutes a day to be still and silent.**

Give yourself time for some clarity and peace of mind every day.

**2. Practice generosity even when you're not in the most generous of moods.**

This entails offering more than just money—your time, a smile or a compliment—especially when you are feeling sorry for yourself.

**3. Don't indulge the inner voices and thoughts that criticize yourself and others.** Avoid being stuck in the past and worrying about the future.

**4. Recognize the power of**

*speech and use words wisely.* The words we use have a real impact on ourselves and others.

**5. Look people in the eye and smile at them even if you think there's absolutely no chance you'll ever see them or need them again.**

Try this with a store clerk, a homeless person or just about anyone. Do it without expecting a return smile.

**6. Pay attention.** Keep an open and curious attitude toward the physical experience of each moment.

**7. Remember that you are not separate from anyone else.**

Recognize the worth and goodness in every living thing.

**8. Don't make anything.** If you make something, you have something. If you don't make anything, you have everything. Keep your mind open.

**9. Appreciate your life.** The more you appreciate what you have in your life right now, the happier you can be.

To avoid setting yourself up for failure, IDP suggests that instead of viewing resolutions as self-improvement projects, you look at them as something you can work with throughout each day, as best as you can.

— Ken Saiki

## Mahalo for Your Membership Dues

To individuals and families who have recently joined or already taken care of renewing their annual gojikai membership, thank you very much for your support.

Timely submission of annual gojikai dues supports our temple activities, such as our weekly Sunday services, youth programs, study classes and various other community services, and helps sustain them into the future.

For those who have not sent their \$75 annual membership dues yet, we would appreciate your taking care of it at your earliest convenience. Better yet, resolve to do it today.

Payment of annual gojikai membership dues also allows you to maintain a niche in our columbarium.

If you're not a member yet, please consider joining. Your membership will help us continue our mission in serving the community.

## GOLDEN DEER SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday, January 5

Children of all ages are welcome to join in!  
Meet at 10:00 am at the temple

Our first Golden Deer activity for the new year is an outing to Nuuanu Valley Park (Queen Emma Summer Palace). Pack a lunch and let's enjoy nature! In case of rain, we will laminate dried flowers to make bookmarks.

For more information, call 531-9088

## Get Your Wa by Email

Here's how to unclutter your mailbox and switch to an electronic version of our monthly Wa newsletter. Simply send an email, with subject line "Email Wa," including your name and address, to [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org).

Then, starting next month, your Wa will arrive in your email inbox instead of being delivered to your mailbox by your mail carrier.

You'll be helping us save some paper and receive a bonus while at it. Your bonus? The emailed version of Wa comes in color!



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII  
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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### JANUARY 2014

1/1	Wed	10 am	<b>New Year service (Shusho-e)</b> <i>Ozoni served after service</i>
1/5	Sun	10 am	<b>Shotsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
1/5	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
1/9	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English
1/12	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
1/14	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
1/18	Sat	10 am	<b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b> led by Rev. Frank Childs
1/19	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
1/19	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
1/21	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-ko:</b> dharma discussion at Kaneohe
1/26	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
1/28	Tue	10 am	<b>Shinran Shonin memorial service</b>
1/28	Tue	11 am	<b>Recitation circle</b>
1/28	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
1/28	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: Ikiru</b> Fukuhara Conference Room

### FEBRUARY 2014

2/2	Sun	10 am	<b>Shotsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
2/2	Sun	12 pm	<b>Basic Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
2/8	Sat	10 am	<b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b>
2/9	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
2/11	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
2/13	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English
2/15	Sat	10 am	<b>Joint Retreat</b> at Betsuin
2/16	Sun	10 am	<b>Joint Retreat</b> at Hilo
2/16	Sun	10 am	<b>Nirvana Day service &amp; Sunday school</b>
2/16	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
2/18	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-ko:</b> dharma discussion at Kaneohe
2/23	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
2/23	Sun	11 am	<b>General membership meeting &amp; New Year's party</b> at Otani Center
2/25	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
2/25	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: TBA</b>
2/28	Fri	10 am	<b>Shinran Shonin memorial service</b>
2/28	Fri	11 am	<b>Recitation circle</b>

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