

和

'WA'
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

December 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

President: Faye Shigemura
Vice President: Jonathan Tani
Secretary: Debra Saiki
Treasurer: Edmund Nakano
Auditor: Ken Saiki

Rinban: Kenjun Kawawata
Minister: Makoto Honda
Associate Minister:
Frank Childs

1685 Alaneo Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Tel: (808) 531-9088
Fax: (808) 531-3265
Email: betsuin@hhbt-hi.org

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

PREPARATIONS FOR SHINRAN SHONIN'S 750TH MEMORIAL SERVICE & BETSUIN'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

November 19-20, 2016

You may have heard that the Betsuin will be celebrating its 100th year of serving our community in 2016. Imagine that...the temple has been bringing dharma teachings to local families for nearly a century now, except during a brief dark period in our nation's history when the temple was shut down during World War II.

Our centennial anniversary will be held in 2016 in conjunction with Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District's 750th Memorial Service for our denomination's founder, Shinran Shonin, in November, two years from now. We've already established a Goenki Committee and started preparation for services and events to commemorate this historic milestone.

A kick-off benefit event for the centennial celebration will be held this coming Saturday, December 6, at 1:00 p.m. at the Betsuin's Otani Center. The concert event will feature Kinnara, performing ancient ceremonial Japanese gagaku music and bugaku dance, plus traditional Indian dance by the Arpana Dance Company.

Kinnara was formed in 1969 at the Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles as a study group of Buddhism and Buddhist culture. Kinnara was originally formed as a chanting group and named after the chanting musicians of Buddhist mythology. At the invitation of Rev. Masao Kodani, Prof. Suenobu Togi, Professor Emeritus, UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology and former musician of the Japanese Imperial household, took leadership of the group and included the study of gagaku and bugaku. He continued to lead Kinnara until his death in November, 2009.

The Arpana school was established in 1982, in the spirit of offering dance to the Divine. ("Arpana" is the Sanskrit word for "offering.") Since the school's humble beginnings, Ramya Harishankar has personally trained more than 250 students in this rigorous art form, with over 70 graduating and performing their dance debut, or *Arangetram*.

The teaching follows much in the pattern of the *Guru-Shishya* tradition of yore. The students are not mere enrollees in the school but develop a personal relationship with their teacher over the years, learning many intricacies of the dance form, performance techniques and cultural awareness.

Through her school, Harishankar has helped build artistic sensitivity,

(cont'd on p. 2)

**Kick-off event for Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District
Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial & Betsuin Centennial Celebration**

Kinnara / Arpana benefit concert

Saturday, Dec. 6, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii - Otani Center
1685 Alaneo St. (corner of N. Kuakini St.)
Donations appreciated

750TH MEMORIAL & CENTENNIAL (*cont'd from p. 1*)
 appreciation and understanding of cultural traditions in the community. Her students have also acquired physical and mental discipline, strength of character and personalities that have held them in good stead through their college and working careers. Many have become torchbearers of the tradition and have been performing with the Arpana Dance Company since its inception.

I'd like to extend my personal invitation to you to this kick-off concert for our Shinran Shonin's Memorial Service and Centennial Celebration.

In observing the 750th memorial and centennial activities, we look back to our temple's past as a means to create and build the future of Jodo Shinshu here in the Hawaii. While we reexamine what the role of our temple should be, we must constantly keep in mind that our pioneer predecessors had a wish to have a place to gather and listen to the Buddha dharma for their meaningful life in Hawaii.

Therefore we will go back to their original wishes and listen to the Nembutsu teaching through this centennial celebration and Shinran Shonin's Goenki service. Our Betsuin Centennial committee is planning various commemorative projects, a major one being the hondo (main hall) renovation and altar restoration. It's been more than 30 years since the move from our old Banyan

St. location, and our facilities are showing their age and are in need of renovations and restoration work.

For educational projects, as you know we've already established the Higashi Hongwanji Dharma Study Center and hold lecture series twice a year, in Spring and Fall. Our hope is that this study center will be able to provide even more classes and lectures for our members and other interested people as well. To this end, Dr. Jay Sakashita, religion professor at the University of Hawaii – Manoa, is scheduled to conduct our Spring lecture series. Watch for an announcement.

You can see that our temple and district will be more active and quite busy in preparation for those events next year. Therefore I would like to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

In closing I would like to thank all our members and dharma friends who supported our temple this past year. We could not have had all our regular and special services, educational programs and other worthwhile activities without your support and your participation. We appreciate it very much.

I wish that you will have a peaceful year-end, as we look forward to the exciting and eventful new year that lies ahead of us.

In Gassho.
 Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

Aloha and Mahalo!

Rev. Makoto Honda

It seems like just yesterday that I started as a minister at the Betsuin, and now, nearly 2½ years later, I hold a plane ticket in hand for my return to Japan. My R1 visa, which allows me to work in the U.S. temporarily as a minister, is soon to expire.



Now I can kind of understand how a shopkeeper feels when he faces the loss of his lease. It's beyond one's control, so you simply accept it and look ahead to your next phase in life.

Even plants need to be repotted every once in a while.

And besides, as much as I love being in Hawaii, returning to my home temple and eventually allowing my mother to retire, is what

will happen sooner or later anyway. So it may as well be sooner.

Looking back, I wish I could've done more in the short time I was here. This was my first assignment as a minister—my first full-time job, actually—and I had a lot to learn. I believe I grew considerably as a person. All those laulus and plate lunches with two scoops rice helped with my "growth," but my ministerial duties—the daily morning chanting, delivering dharma messages at Sunday services, being with families in time of need, conducting funeral and memorial services, helping people in crises and just working with folks from a different culture—taught me invaluable lessons in life. It helped me as I faced my own personal challenges.

I truly thank all in the Higashi Hongwanji *ohana* for giving me this opportunity to develop. I appreciate those who stuck with me through recitation circle sessions (which helped me improve my English) and attended

Mako's Computer Clinic (to let me practice my teaching skills).

Mahalo for helping me add new words to my vocabulary, such as *niele*, *moloha* and *kukae*, and pointing out the difference between a crown and a clown.

Thanks to all who helped me launch the Betsuin's website (*please visit if you haven't yet!*) and initiate a relational database for the temple.

And thank you for your ideas, photographs and assistance with the publishing of the 2015 Hawaii District calendar, one of the last projects for which I was responsible. I hope you will use the calendar as we envisioned, take time to discuss the questions and even post your answers on the district website.

I will never forget the many people in Hawaii who have shared their friendship and spirit of aloha with me, and hope I leave an indelible impression on some of you as well.

A hui hou!

KINNARA / ARPANA

KICK-OFF BENEFIT CONCERT

HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT

SHINRAN SHONIN 750th MEMORIAL

HAWAII BETSUIN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

GAGAKU / BUGAKU / BHARATANATYAM INDIAN DANCE



Kinnara was formed at Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles as a study group of Buddhism and Buddhist culture. It began as a chanting group in 1969.

Arpana means 'Offering' in Sanskrit and it is with this spirit of offering dance to the Divine that the school was started in 1982.

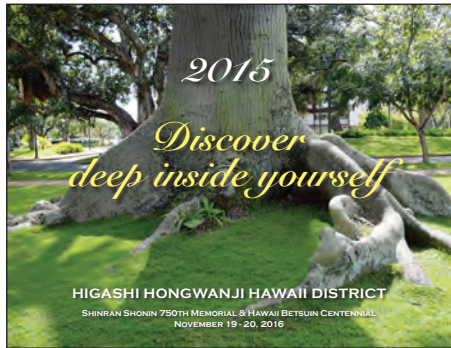
DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2014

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

ADDRESS: 1685 ALANEO ST. HONOLULU, HI 96817

CONTACT: (808) 531- 9088 or (808) 531- 1231



2015 Hawaii District calendar aims to promote understanding

The 2015 Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District calendar, ideal for wall hanging as well as jotting down your daily appointments, is now available. Donations to help defray the cost of printing are greatly appreciated.

This year's calendar features weekly questions to encourage you to look inside your own self to help you understand others. February, for example, has an animal theme and asks, "If you were your pet, what would you think of your owner?"

We hope you will enjoy comparing your answers with your family and perhaps even share them at a special calendar discussion page on the Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District website at hhbt-hi.org starting Jan. 1.

Drop by the Betsuin office next time you visit or call 531-9088 and ask for your copy of the calendar.



2015 Ho-on-ko: Overseas District Abbot Choyu Otani officiates at Ho-on-ko service held at the Betsuin on Nov. 16, while Rev. Marcos Sawada, Bishop Ken Kawawata, Rev. Frank Childs, Rev. Makoto Honda, Rev. Takafumi Bansaka, Rev. Noriaki Fujimori and Rev. Hiroko Maeda assist. Four people received Buddhist names at kikyoshiki rites immediately following the service.

Keep up with temple activities at Betsuin's new website

Whether you're trying to find out when the next *What on Earth is Namuamidabutsu?* session is being held, where the nearest Higashi Hongwanji temple is or learn more about Shinran Shonin's life, you'll find it on our new website at betsuin.hhbt-hi.org.

You'll discover it's an easy-to-navigate and useful tool to keep up-to-date on all our temple activities.

There's helpful information on memorial services, dharma and culture classes, temple facilities available for rental and an archive of past issues of our monthly *Wa* newsletter.

While the website is still a work in progress, we hope you'll use it as a ready source of current information about the Betsuin and our activities.

Please feel free to give us your feedback and suggestions on how we can improve the website.

Regular monthly activities schedule modified by holidays

Our usual ukulele practice and movie night for the 4th Tuesday in December will not be held because of the holidays.

We'll still have our hands full with things to do at year-end, such as our

top-to-bottom *oosouji*, or year-end temple cleaning, starting at 9 am, and our twice-a-year Ehime Maru Memorial community service cleaning at Kakaako Waterfront Park on Saturday, Dec. 27. We'll meet at the park at 12 noon, and after cleaning, we'll enjoy a relaxing picnic lunch.



Pounding mochi is fun for the whole family!

Join us for mochi-pounding at the Betsuin on December 28

Let's get together for traditional *mochi-tsuki* after our Dec. 28 Sunday service. Then you can take home mochi for ozoni or New Year's display. Please call 531-9088 to let us know if you're joining us so we can have enough supplies on hand.

You're welcome to bring your family and help us perpetuate this popular Japanese custom for future generations to enjoy.

And let's not forget the *toshikoshi* "year-passing" *soba* and other *osechi* dishes, served after bell-ringing 108 times at our *Joya-e* year-end service on Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, starting at 5 pm.

Then on Jan. 1 enjoy slurping tummy-warming *ozoni* mochi soup right after our 10 am *Shusho-e* New Year's Day service.

Won't you join us to help start off the New Year in a positive way?



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
1685 ALANEO STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Honolulu, HI
Permit No. 693

In this issue of WA...

- **Shinran Shonin's 750th memorial & Betsuin Cenennial celebration** p. 1
- **Aloha message from Rev. Honda** p. 2
- **Kinnara/Arpana kickoff event** p. 3
- **News on the Betsuin Wireless** p. 4
- **2015 calendar available** p. 4
- **New Betsuin website launched** p. 4
- **Join us for mochi-pounding** p. 4
- **Acknowledgments** p. 5
- **Monthly shotsuki observance** p. 5
- **Temple activities calendar** p. 6

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2014

12/6	Sat	1 pm	Kinnara/Arpana concert - Otani Center
12/7	Sun	10 am	HBC Bodhi Day service - Tendai Mission (no service at Betsuin)
12/9	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
12/11	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
12/13	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
12/14	Sun	10 am	Betsuin Bodhi Day service
12/14	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
12/16	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
12/21	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school
12/21	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
12/23	Tue		No ukulele class or movie night
12/27	Sat	9 am	Annual temple cleaning (大掃除) Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning Picnic lunch (Kakaako Waterfront Park)
12/28	Sun	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
12/28	Sun	12 pm	Mochi-pounding
12/31	Wed	5 pm	Year-end service (Joya-e) Toshi-koshi soba following

JANUARY 2015

1/1	Thu	10 am	New Year service (Shusho-e) Ozoni & other osechi dishes following
1/4	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school
1/4	Sun	12 pm	Jimmy's Auto Basics led by Jimmy Hirakawa, Proprietor Palolo Auto Service
1/8	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
1/10	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
1/11	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
1/11	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
1/13	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
1/18	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
1/18	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
1/20	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
1/25	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
1/27	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
1/27	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: The Wind Rises
1/28	Wed	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

Everyone is welcome to join in on our sutra chanting at 7 am daily (except Sundays & 28th day of the month) in the Betsuin Main Hall.