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harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

5  
May 2015

### 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  
Associate Minister:  
Frank Childs

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

## THE POINT OF A MYTH

Rev. Frank Childs



*Rev. Frank Childs, associate minister at our Betsuin, delivered the dharma message at our Hanamatsuri Buddha Day service on April 12. Below is a transcript of his message.*

**W**e well know that when Shakyamuni Buddha was born he took seven steps in the four directions, pointed up and down, and said, "I alone am noble."

But do we know this as a cold and hard fact? Not at all: we know it as a myth. Many people of our time now might see a myth as "a silly old tale told because folks back then did not know any better, and lacked the science and technology we now have."

Let's see if such really is the case.

Joseph Campbell (1904-1987), a historian of the mythic, said toward the end of his life, "We're so engaged in doing things to achieve purposes of outer value that we forget that the inner value, the rapture that is associated with being alive, is what it's all about."

I feel Campbell is touching upon why we need the sense of release and wonder what a mythic moment can offer us. How many people only "go through the motions" of being alive?

Myth is defined as "a story that embodies the values of a culture"; it is not a "lie." Even if we can't calculate each act in Buddha's life in a literal way, is not his life story important to our individual lives right now?

The Buddha birthday "flower house" and "tea bath"...don't these repeated acts link us with Buddha in very everyday human ways?

I often felt stymied by the "I alone" part of the story. Allowing the sense of myth to work upon me, I can feel joy in the nobility of the child-like wonder that we could all do well to touch again in our often jaded present.

I find that I've raised questions here that perhaps you have your own feelings about. Good! Take time to ponder and share your views along this path we share at this time. We each live in our own flower house, and fade with the petals. If we don't feel alive in this very life, I doubt we will have the option any other time.

Namuamidabutsu.





*Jeanne Kawawata demonstrates folding techniques at her April 26 paper crafting class.*

## Schedule set for additional Art of Paper Crafting classes

Some 15 temple members and friends gathered in the Fukuhara Conference Room at the Betsuin on April 26 to learn how to make intricate paper cranes from craft instructor Jeanne Kawawata.

Not your ordinary folded origami crane, the end result is a work of art. The first class was devoted to folding the hundreds of paper squares. At the May 3 session, attendees will learn the technique of assembling their cranes.

With so much interest, follow-up

classes to make a kusudama ball and men in a boat have been scheduled for May 17 and 24, respectively, from 12 noon to 2 pm.

If you're interested in joining the classes, please call 531-9088 to register. Seating may be limited. There is a \$4 fee for each set.

## Sanjuro is movie of the month

In May we feature the 1962 samurai drama *Sanjuro*, directed by Akira Kurosawa and starring Toshiro Mifune, Tatsuya Nakadai and Yuzo Kayama. Need we say more?

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., May 26, 96 min. monochrome, Japanese audio with English subtitles. Free admission.

### 椿三十郎 (つばきさんじゅうろう)

監督：黒澤明、出演者：三船敏郎、仲代達矢、加山雄三

公開：1962、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：96分(モノクロ)、5月26日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

## Update on plumbing and other structural repairs

by Faye Shigemura

Can you imagine being without a toilet and shower for two months? Under what conditions would this happen to people today? Perhaps as a victim of a natural disaster and being forced to live temporarily in a warehouse?

No, this was the unfortunate life of our own Bishop Kawawata and his family earlier this year at his residence at the Betsuin.

### Sewer line problem

When his plumbing became clogged, we immediately called RotoRooter to the rescue. But they couldn't resolve the problem so a heavy-duty rooting specialist was called in, who couldn't handle it either, so they had to call someone with super heavy-duty rooting equipment, all to no avail. Fortunately, since we have other toilets and showers on property, Bishop and his family were able to still get business done.

After an extended period of follow-up phone calls, excuses and delays, plus an ultimatum from Bishop that he would consider moving to a hotel, we secured another plumber to accomplish the task, which involved connecting bigger pipes, redirecting the flow and installing a pump.

Although the concrete work to house the pump and the electrical work are yet to be completed, Bishop



*Eroding walls and spalling concrete cracks are scheduled to be repaired with industrial rust inhibitor and epoxy concrete.*

is happy now that he can finally study on his own throne.

We apologize to Bishop for any inconvenience and thank him and his family for their patience.

### Structural repairs

I don't know how the Greeks and Romans did it, but they must have had exceptional builders to have their buildings last so long.

After less than 50 years, our temple is having structural problems which should be addressed now to avoid more costly repairs down the line. I now have extreme empathy to homeowners. If it's not the roof, it's the plumbing or worse, the supporting structure. Well, maybe plumbing is the worst fear for women. There's something to be said for renting versus ownership.

We will start repair work on the main temple building soon. We apologize in advance for any additional noise or inconvenience due to repairs, and ask for your patience and understanding. Work will primarily involve the ewa and makai sides of the building.

## Fukushima Children's Project Outdoor activities help recharge kids

by Faye Shigemura

**H**igashi Hongwanji Hawaii District sponsored six 10- to 12-year-old students from Fukushima, Japan, to come to Hawaii for a week of respite from the stress and contamination concerns as a result of the 3/11 earthquake and tsunami.

These youngsters took nothing for granted, inhaled their new experiences in Hawaii with refreshing enthusiasm not often seen in children their age. I want to say that the children were like any other pre-teens I've met before, but not these young ladies and gentlemen. The children were a joy to be around. The shortest but the most vocal was a 10-year-old boy who responded with a loud, "Arigato Gozaimasu!" whenever they received anything.

Each day started or ended with a service, with the children chanting and ringing the gong. They trekked to Waimea Canyon and experienced probably their first bed-and-breakfast



*Picking their own cacao beans to make their own cocoa was a fun experience.*

at Moloa'a. The beach was close by, so the children were able to walk down for some fun in the sun. They learned how to pick and husk cacao beans and prepare them for sun-drying. Grinding beans that had been dried beforehand, they were able to enjoy delicious cups of hot cocoa.... prepared with their own hands!

Dan and Jean Chapp of the Waimea temple recruited fellow Lions Club members to help with the Fukushima



*The children enjoyed basking in the sun and frolicking in the surf of Kauai's fabled beaches. Playing outdoors is a rare treat among many Fukushima youngsters who are often kept indoors by their parents out of concern about effects of radiation on their young bodies.*

children's project. The children were treated to lunch by the Kauai Marriott Resort, along with a tour of the grounds and gifts to fill a shopping bag from Sales Manager Barbara Gusman and Japanese Language Liaison, Art Umezu, and his wife.

Shopping for *omiyage* for friends and family in Japan was next on the agenda. After dinner, the children made their own Spam musubi for breakfast. The next day, they went on an adventurous boat ride around the Napali Coast.

Members and volunteers at Waimea Higashi Hongwanji prepared a sumptuous welcome pot luck feast, snacks throughout the visit and an equally festive farewell party. Several members gave the children little gifts to take home. In gratitude, the children sang for everyone: their school song and the well-loved *Kokyo*, all in beautiful harmony.

As a chaperone, I met many kind and generous people who will remain in my heart for a long time. Members and ministers of the small Kauai community get together to help one another with temple and non-temple activities. It was wonderful to see people in the community with a true desire to belong and help each other.

This was by far the most important and far-reaching project in which I participated as a member of Higashi Hongwanji. The responsibility was huge, but as far as return rewards go, the look on the faces of the participants spoke volumes. This

was the first group to come under the Hawaii District's charge, and we learned a lot about organization and planning. This Fukushima children's project can only get better as we prepare for the next group of children.

In the future, we hope to get more Higashi Hongwanji members, friends and partners involved to help with this project. If you would like to get involved, or if you have connections at airlines, hotels or anyone in the travel industry who might be able to help, please contact us. We hope to improve the lives of victims, many who will not recover their homes for a long time to come, and many more who may be negatively affected by radiation exposure.

A grateful mahalo and deep arigato to all participants and donors to this much needed project.

## Mother's Day Family Service

**Sunday, May 10 at 10:00 am**  
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
Message: John Ishikawa

## 母の日家族礼拝

5月10日午前10時  
東本願寺ハワイ別院  
メッセージ：石川ジョン氏

# Tanjo-e Service

In celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin

## Hatsumairi Ceremony

Held in conjunction with Tanjo-e Service

Sunday May 17, 2015 10:00 am

English Message : Rev. Frank Childs



## 親鸞聖人誕生会 新生児初参り法要

2015年5月17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 6 years of age who shall be presented initially before the Buddha. It signifies the foundation towards a spiritual life. Please fill out the application form and send back to the temple office.

初参りは、新しいいのちの誕生を祝う儀式です。6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



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

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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### MAY 2015

- |      |     |         |   |
|------|-----|---------|---|
| 5/3  | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Shōtsuki memorial service</b><br>(Rinban Kawawata) & <b>Sunday school</b>        |
| 5/3  | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Art of Paper Crafting</b> (Tsuru assembly)                                       |
| 5/9  | Sat | 10 am   | <b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b><br>led by Rev. Frank Childs                 |
| 5/10 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Mother's Day family service</b><br>(John Ishikawa, lay speaker)                  |
| 5/10 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Basic Buddhism study class</b><br>led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese             |
| 5/12 | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>  |
| 5/14 | Thu | 7 pm    | <b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b><br>led by Rinban Kawawata in English            |
| 5/17 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Tanjo-e service</b> (Rev. Frank Childs)<br>Celebration of Shinran Shonin's birth |
| 5/17 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Betsuin board meeting</b>  |
| 5/17 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Art of Paper Crafting</b> (Kusudama)   |
| 5/19 | Tue | 7 pm    | <b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Kaneohe   |
| 5/24 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>All Wars memorial service</b>  |
| 5/24 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Art of Paper Crafting</b> (Men in Boat)  |
| 5/26 | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>  |
| 5/26 | Tue | 6:30 pm | <b>Movie night: Sanjuro</b>   |
| 5/28 | Sat | 10 am   | <b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>  |
| 5/31 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Sunday service</b> (Rev. Takafumi Bansaka)                                       |

### JUNE 2015

- |      |     |         |  |
|------|-----|---------|--|
| 6/7  | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Shōtsuki memorial service</b><br>(Rinban Kawawata) & <b>Sunday school</b>                         |
| 6/7  | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Jimmy's Auto Basics</b><br>led by Jimmy Hirakawa<br>Fukuhara Conference Room                      |
| 6/9  | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>   |
| 6/11 | Thu | 7 pm    | <b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b><br>led by Rinban Kawawata in English<br>Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/13 | Sat | 10 am   | <b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b><br>led by Rev. Frank Childs                                  |
| 6/14 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Sunday service</b>  |
| 6/14 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Basic Buddhism study class</b><br>led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese                              |
| 6/16 | Tue | 7 pm    | <b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Betsuin  |
| 6/17 | Wed | 7 pm    | <b>Dharma Study Center lecture</b><br>Dr. Michihiro Ama<br>Betsuin main hall                         |
| 6/21 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Father's Day family service</b>   |
| 6/21 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Betsuin board meeting</b>   |
| 6/23 | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>   |
| 6/23 | Tue | 6:30 pm | <b>Movie night: Yojimbo</b>  |
| 6/28 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Onicchu and Sunday service</b>  |

*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.*