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## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

12  
December 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

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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

## BECOMING MYSELF

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

It's already December. This month we celebrate Bodhi Day, which is the day of Buddha's awakening. Therefore, I would like to discuss the Buddha's awakening for this issue.

First of all I'd like to share a writing of Rev. Haya Akegarasu, who was a modern thinker and priest of Jodo Shinshu in the late 19th and early 20th century.

*"Jesus was not a Christian. Shakyamuni was not a Buddhist. Jesus was Jesus himself and Shakyamuni was Shakyamuni himself. When the disciples of Shakyamuni tried to be like a Shakyamuni, they became Buddhists and the spirit of Shakyamuni was destroyed.*

*I just need to be myself. No need to become a Christian, to become a Buddhist, to become a Buddha or to become a god. According to Shakyamuni, to become a Buddha means to become one's own self. Thus, becoming true to myself is to become a Buddha (awakened one)."*

From this writing, we know that Buddhism is the quest of one's true self and the way of self-examination. Buddha said this world is fleeting. This world is impermanent. We are born and living in this fleeting world of impermanence. We see and recognize this world through our six senses:

vision, hearing, smell, taste, touch and mind, or consciousness. The center of perception for this world is *myself*.

***"Jesus was not a Christian. Shakyamuni was not a Buddhist. Jesus was Jesus himself and Shakyamuni was Shakyamuni himself."***

That is why Buddha and other teachers of Buddhism said that knowing our true self is most important and they walked in the way of self-awakening, the path of Buddha.

We know that we are living in the fleeting and floating world. However, we tend to see this world in our ways. We also have many attachments for our convenience and smooth lives. When life goes smoothly, we don't feel any problems or sufferings. When the conditions change, however, our life does not go the way we wish. We tend to push out others and try to get our own smooth lives back.

I realize that I have all kind of weapons in my mind. I can picture guns, knives and swords. I would harm and kill others for the sake of my convenient life. Because I always wish for a smooth life, if someone appears in front of me and disturbs my happy life, I am sure that I would wish that that person would disappear from my life. Realistically, I won't kill or harm him or her, but in my mind, I had already "killed" that person. Depending on conditions, we don't really know what we would do in the next moment.

Shiran Shonin said to his disciple, Yuien, "We do not kill, not because our thoughts are good but because we do not have the karma to kill even a single person. Yet, even though we do not want to injure anyone, we may be led to kill a hundred or a thousand people... Under the influence of our karmic condition we human beings will do anything."

*(cont'd on p. 2)*



Rinban Ken Kawawata

### BODHI DAY SERVICES

#### Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service

Sunday, December 6, starting at 9:00 am  
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1727 Pali Highway

#### Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin Bodhi Day Service

Sunday, December 13, starting at 10:00 am  
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1685 Alaneo Street

## BECOMING MYSELF (cont'd from p. 1)

Through the Dharma, we are taught that existence has a tendency to change due to certain conditions. The world of Dharma, however, always makes us realize the limitations of our own world. Once we know our limitations, we can get away from our small world and become able to see the world that has no limitations.

Dr. Haneda likened a human being to a frog living in a well. The frog doesn't realize how small it

is and that there is a huge world outside of the well. If it gets out from the well and sees the real world, it would know its limitations and that an unlimited world sustained its world. The frog has to return to its well because that's the only place it can live out its life.

Similarly, we have to live with our shortcomings and ego. That's why we have to leave for our journey to find our true selves. Buddhism is the way of self-

awakening and becoming our true selves.

In Jodo Shinshu, listening to the Dharma is our practice and leads to *shinjin*, or entrusting mind to the Dharma. We listen to the Dharma, and little by little, our real selves will prevail. So listening is the most important practice in our daily lives.

I wish you a peaceful year-end and a Happy New Year.

Thank you in gassho,  
Kenjun Kawawata



## **A**loha! I'm Koen Kikuchi, new resident minister at the Betsuin. It's nice to meet all of you.

I arrived here in Hawaii on October 14. As soon as the plane touched down at the airport, I felt as if summer had come again. That's because in Japan, it's getting colder and colder, and this year it seems to be especially cold.

There is a Japanese saying, 暑さ寒さも彼岸まで (*atsusa samusa mo higan made*), which means "hot and cold only lasts until Higan." Usually in Japan, the climate and temperature would be more comfortable until Higan. But this autumn, it wasn't as usual. The

week or two before Higan was cold, though it wasn't a problem for me. I could sleep well but eventually, I had a difficult time getting up in the morning. But coming to Hawaii, ah... summer has returned.

I like summer and warm weather because I was born and raised in Akita prefecture, which is located in the northern part of Japan. Summers are very short and winters are lo-o-o-ng. And it snows a lot. And I mean a lot. In places near my hometown, some people use a second floor window to enter their house! Even in my hometown, overnight it may snow up to our knees or lower back.

Anyway, I guess you can tell that I really like summer. I also like your warm and kind hearts. I was greeted at the airport by both Rinban Kawawata and Bansaka-sensei and they brought me to the temple.

Then when we reached the temple grounds, a lot of Betsuin members were waiting to welcome me. It was an unexpected surprise.

It was a feeling that I don't experience much nowadays. I'm so happy to be here, and I would like to meet and talk with a lot of members in Hawaii.

My English is still a work in progress. Even though I spent a year in Malta, English words still don't flow out of my mouth easily. Well, even Japanese words

sometimes get stuck. Maybe there is a traffic jam in my brain. For the past eight years, I did not have the opportunity to use English all that much. It isn't easy for me to speak, write and listen to English now, but I am trying my best.

I'm here with my family, which includes my wife Mai, six-year-old son Ren, and daughters Kokoro (4) and Hana (2). Every day the children run and play and shriek around the temple grounds, so you can find them easily. They're enjoying themselves and seem very happy to be here.

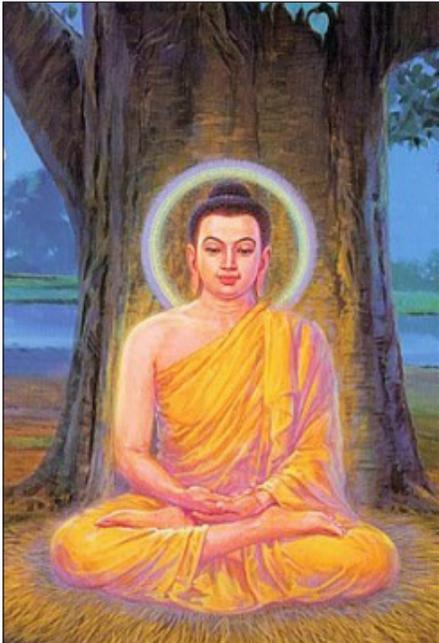
My teacher left me a saying I can't forget. "To marry is living." Recently, the words came to touch my heart deeply. Marriage is not a fantasy or a dream, but it is a reality that I have to accept, no matter what happens.

Buddha dharma is a teaching of our life. I'd like to listen and learn together with you. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you soon.

Gassho,  
Koen Kikuchi



Rev. Kikuchi with son Ren, daughters Kokoro and Hana, and wife, Mai.



### HBC Bodhi Day service on Dec. 6 honors peace and enlightenment

The Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC) will celebrate Bodhi Day along with an observation of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II at 9 am Sunday, Dec. 6.

The special joint service, sponsored by the seven HBC Buddhist denominations including Higashi Hongwanji, will be held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

Guest speaker is COL Edwin Hawkins, USAF (Ret), president emeritus of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii.

The Ohana Arts Theatre Company will perform selections from "Peace on Your Wings," a musical tribute to Sadako Sasaki, a victim of the WW II Hiroshima bombing who inspired the folding of 1,000 cranes to symbolize the desire for peace.

Donations of canned and packaged goods will be collected for Hawaii food banks. Light refreshments will be served.

Bodhi Day commemorates the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama, who was "born" as Shakyamuni Buddha while meditating under a bodhi tree.

### Ho-on-ko brings together attendees from far and wide

The Nov. 14-15 Ho-on-ko weekend gathering brought together Jodo Shinshu followers from Oahu and neighbor island temples throughout the Hawaii District, and Overseas District Abbot Choyu Otani as well.

Rev. Noriaki Fujimori led the Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District gathering theme discussion of "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish". To help attendees understand the teaching of the temple, he used the 12 lights radiated by Buddha to illustrate Buddha's wish and the difference between shallow and deepest wishes.

As an example of a shallow wish, we try to avoid people we dislike. Accepting whomever we meet is a deepest wish. Enemies and others are our teachers just as they are.

Group discussions and a summary was followed by a short service before dinner.

The Ho-on-ko weekend was capped by a service on Sunday officiated by Overseas District Abbot Otani and dharma message presented by Rev. Hiroko Maeda of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji.

### December's movie of the month: Tokyo Story with Setsuko Hara

Although we had previously announced that *Still Walking* would be our December movie, we'll be featuring *Tokyo Story* instead, as a tribute to beloved Japanese actress Setsuko Hara, whose death at age 95 was recently announced by her family. *Still Walking* will be shown next month.

*Tokyo Story*, a 1953 Japanese drama film directed by Yasujiro Ozu and starring Chishu Ryu, Chieko Higashiyama, Setsuko Hara, Haruko Sugimura and Soh Yamamura, tells the story of an aging couple who travels to Tokyo to visit their grown children. The film contrasts the behavior of their children, who are too busy to pay

much attention to them, and their widowed daughter-in-law, who treats them with kindness.

It is widely regarded as Ozu's masterpiece and is often cited by critics worldwide as one of the greatest films ever made.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Dec. 22, 136 min. Monochrome. Free admission. Light refreshments. Feel free to bring your own snacks.



### 東京物語 (とうきょうものがたり)

日本映画を代表する傑作の1本。巨匠・小津安二郎監督が、戦後変わりつつある家族の関係をテーマに人間の生と死までをも見つめた深淵なドラマ。故郷の尾道から20年ぶりに東京へ出てきた老夫婦。成人した子どもたちの家を訪ねるが、みなそれぞれの生活に精一杯だった。唯一、戦死した次男の未亡人だけが皮肉にも優しい心遣いを示すのだった…。いまでは失われつつある思いやりや慎ましさとといった“日本のこころ”とでもいうべきものを原節子が表現している。家でひとり侘しくたたずむ笠智衆を捉えたショットは映画史上に残る名ラスト・シーンのひとつ。

日本映画史上 ベスト 10、英国映協会映画史上最高の作品 ベスト 10。

出演者：笠智衆、東山千栄子、原節子、杉村春子、山村聡。

公開：1953、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：136分、白黒、12月22日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

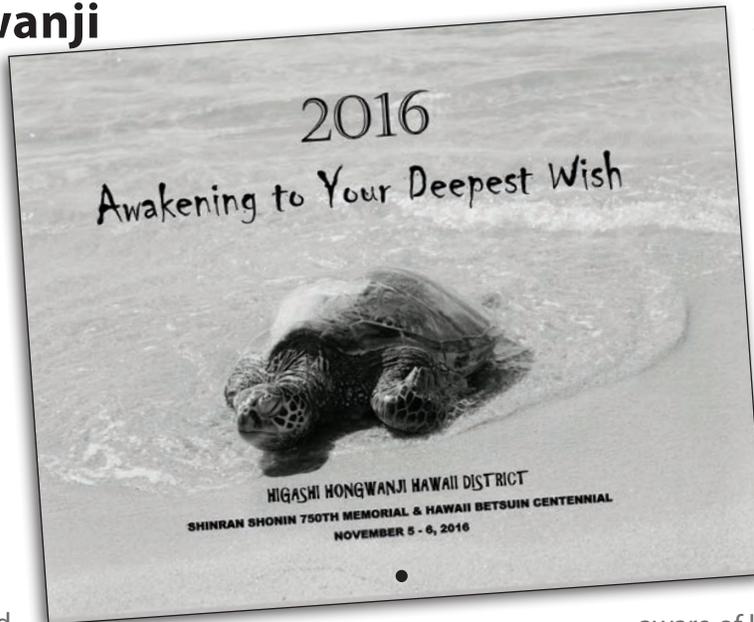
# Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District 2016 Calendar Now Available

**A**wakening to Your *Deepest Wish* is the central theme of Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District's 2016 full-color calendar, which is now available for distribution through all district temples.

The calendar focuses on the Hawaii District's Shinran Shonin 750th memorial and Betsuin centennial. Local members' words were matched with photographs submitted by others to portray thoughts that demonstrate Buddha's wisdom.

From the calendar's foreword: "Hongan is universal feelings, universal love, universal sharing, universal care, universal profit, universal sadness, universal pain, and each one means compassion. In our busy daily routines, we are not always aware of how life is connected with all which make us insensitive to the feeling of gratitude."

"All words have the Truth inside, but you cannot look into just one fragment. Like a puzzle, the pieces



of your daily experiences will connect one-by-one to show the Truth when you touch the world of Buddha's wisdom."

"Deepest aspiration is the way to encounter the Truth, the Wisdom. It's the Dharma. We have only our background as humans. We are forgetting our existence, our connection to others."

"Through this calendar, you can find your other piece or connection. You have to start from your heart, your roots, your origin to understand the infinite connections. We are human. We have aloha. Our diversity makes us

see connections with other people, races and cultures as well as to Master Shinran's teachings and Buddha's teachings."

The 2016 calendar project was coordinated by Rev. Marcos Sawada of Hilo Higashi Hongwanji, with the assistance of many other Hawaii District members and friends, who generously contributed their favorite quotations, photos, ideas and technical assistance to the calendar project.

We hope you will use the calendar to keep you

aware of key events happening year-round at the Betsuin and throughout the Hawaii District. For the latest updates and activities, be sure to check the monthly "Wa" newsletter or the Betsuin's website at [betsuin.hhbt-hi.org](http://betsuin.hhbt-hi.org).

If you would like copies to share with family and friends, please ask one of our ministers the next time you visit the temple. If you prefer, you may call us at 531-9088 or email us at [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org).

We are gratefully accepting donations to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the calendars. Mahalo for your continued support.

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI 12TH DOBO CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES

**I**t's not too early to start making plans for exciting events coming up in 2016. Besides our Betsuin centennial celebration and Goenki observance in Honolulu, there's the Higashi Hongwanji Dobo Convention being held Aug. 26 - 29 in Los Angeles.

JTB Hawaii has drawn up a tentative itinerary for those interested in joining the group tour to save you time and trouble. Here's how the schedule works out:

### **Day 1: Aug. 26 (Fri) HNL to LAX**

Depart HNL United 1231 6:30 am  
Transfer to Hilton Los Angeles Universal City  
Dinner

### **Day 2: Aug. 27 (Sat) LA (Breakfast/lunch/dinner)**

12th Dobo Convention Day 1  
Welcome dinner

### **Day 3: Aug. 28 (Sun) LA (Breakfast/lunch)**

12th Dobo Convention Day 2  
Visit Little Tokyo, Japanese American National

Museum, Los Angeles temple  
Memorial service

### **Day 4: Aug. 29 (Mon) LAX to HNL (Breakfast)**

Depart LAX United 1431, arrive HNL 3:44 pm  
Price: **\$1,819** per person double occupancy (as of 11/6/15)

### **With Las Vegas extension option:**

### **Day 4: Aug. 29 (Mon) LAX to LAS (Breakfast)**

Depart LAX United 531 1:50 pm  
Transfer to Monte Carlo Resort & Casino  
Free at leisure

### **Day 5: Aug. 30 (Tue) Las Vegas (Breakfast)**

Free at leisure

### **Day 6: Aug. 31 (Wed) LAS to HNL (Breakfast)**

Depart LAS United 486, arrive SFO 2:04 pm  
Depart SFO United 73, arrive HNL 6:33 pm  
Price: **\$2,116** per person double occupancy (as of 11/6/15)  
Call the temple at 531-9088 for more information.



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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 2015

12/6 Sun 9 am	<b>HBC Bodhi Day service</b> - Honpa Hongwanji (no service at Betsuin)
12/8 Tue 3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
12/10 Thu 7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English
12/12 Sat 10 am	<b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b> led by Rev. Frank Childs
12/13 Sun 10 am	<b>Betsuin Bodhi Day service &amp; Sunday school</b>
12/13 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
12/13 Sun 12 pm	<b>Art of Paper Crafting class</b>
12/15 Tue 7 pm	<b>O-kō: Dharma discussion</b> at Betsuin
12/20 Sun 10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
12/20 Sun 12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
12/22 Tue 3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
12/22 Tue 6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: Tokyo Story</b> (1953)
12/26 Sat 9 am	<b>Annual temple cleaning (大掃除)</b> <b>Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning</b>
12/27 Sun 8 am	<b>Mochi-pounding</b> (no Sunday service)
12/28 Mon 10 am	<b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>
12/31 Thu 5 pm	<b>Year-end service - 除夜会 (Joya-e)</b> Toshi-koshi soba served after service

### JANUARY 2016

1/1 Fri 10 am	<b>New Year service - 修正会 (Shusho-e)</b> Ozoni served after service
1/3 Sun 10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
1/3 Sun 12 pm	<b>Jimmy's Auto Basics</b> led by Jim Hirakawa (Palolo Auto Service) Fukuhara Conference Room
1/9 Sat 10 am	<b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b> led by Rev. Frank Childs
1/10 Sun 10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
1/10 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
1/12 Tue 3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
1/14 Thu 7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English
1/17 Sun 10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
1/17 Sun 12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
1/17 Sun 12 pm	<b>Art of Paper Crafting class</b>
1/19 Tue 7 pm	<b>O-kō: Dharma discussion</b> at Kaneohe
1/24 Sun 10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
1/26 Tue 3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
1/26 Tue 6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: Still Walking</b> (2008)
1/28 Thu 10 am	<b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>
1/31 Sun 10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</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.