

# 和

**'WA'**  
harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

1  
January 2016

### 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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Vice President: Jonathan Tani  
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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



## 2016 MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

### Happy New Year!

First of all I would 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 meaningful year at our temple.

This year, we will celebrate our Betsuin's centennial, our milestone 100th year of serving the Hawaii community. At the same time Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District will be observing the 750th Memorial Service for our founder, Shinran Shonin.

The Betsuin was initially established in 1916 by Rev. Shingyo Doi from Gifu prefecture in Japan, along with the original members, on Kukui Street in uptown Honolulu. The Betsuin has been spreading the Nembutsu teaching here in Hawaii ever since.

During the Betsuin's hundred-year history, members faced numerous obstacles, including a temporary forced shutdown of the temple during World War II. Putting their efforts together, members overcame those hardships, and today we can see this wonderful temple and sangha.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ministers and members who built and enthusiastically supported the Betsuin, and helped spread the Nembutsu teaching through the past century. I would also like to make my commitment for effective Betsuin services, educational programs and activities for the present members and future generations. For this purpose, we need to listen the dharma more diligently and it is important to become a person who deeply enjoys listening to the dharma.

As you already know, Shinran Shonin's 750th memorial observance and Betsuin centennial celebration will be held this year on November 5 and 6. Please be sure to mark the dates on your calendar.

Built in 1983, the Betsuin's main building is already more than 30 years old. Used daily for various temple functions, it has required some much-needed upkeep work. Altar restoration and structural repairs, including a new coat of paint, have already been completed in preparation for the 750th memorial and centennial observance. Another Betsuin commemorative year project planned in the coming year is repaving of our parking lot.

Thus our members, friends and visitors will be able to gather and observe Shiran Shonin's memorial service and centennial celebration with a newly restored altar in improved facilities. We would appreciate your continued cooperation, understanding and support for these commemorative projects as we step into our centennial celebration and enter a new era for the Betsuin.

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



Rinban Ken Kawawata

In Gassho,  
Kenjun Kawawata

## New Year Message

Rev. Koen Kikuchi  
Betsuin Minister

**H**appy New Year to everyone!! Time passes so quickly, and it's already a new year! Have you kept your New Year's resolutions from last year? Did you look back what happened last year? In my case, I can actually say, "Yes!" What I decided



Rev. Koen Kikuchi

to do at the beginning of the year was "to start a new thing." But at the time I would never have imagined that I'd be here in Hawaii now, nor could I have imagined that I really *would* start a new thing!

Many of us will hope for something at the beginning of a year. "I hope my family and my relatives will be happy and have good health." Or, "This year, I will

lose weight." "I will quit smoking." "I want to have a long vacation."

There are many wishes we have, such as for health, money, social status, peace and happiness. Don't you

have wishes that repeat every year? And don't you easily forget what you wished for at the beginning of the year? This is what I used to do every year.

Sometimes I was disappointed at myself because I couldn't get my wish. At other times I felt happiness that I could actually get my wish.

When I was in school, the wish was always about my test scores. I hoped to get higher scores for entering the next level. So, I believed this was the only way that I could be happy in the future.

But the more I wished, the more I was disappointed when I didn't get a good result. And when I got a good result, I wished for more and more. It seemed like there was no end. I tried and tried to achieve my goal. Finally, the result was not what I wanted. It was totally a negative cycle.

In the New Year's greeting to his friend, Rennyō Shōnin said, "*Do the Nembutsu.*" This means to please start a New Year with Nembutsu. He described Nembutsu as an important teaching for us. What is the importance of it? How does it become an important part of our life? We have to think about this.

This is my New Year's wish: to listen to and think about the meaning of Nembutsu together with you. I hope that many people will come to this temple and we can listen together in 2016.

Together, let's "*Do the Nembutsu!*"

Gassho,  
Koen Kikuchi

## New Year Message

Faye Shigemura  
Kyodan President

**E**very year, I write a New Year message for our Wa temple newsletter. For some reason, this year, I had a few false starts, and just couldn't put down on paper what I wanted to say.

The starts were good, but the middle sucked. Beginning with "*Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu!*" was easy enough; after that it was all downhill.

Then I realized my problem was I wasn't expressing myself with a good heart. I wanted to *monku*, tell everyone my problems, write for myself, and not for readers and friends.

The past year was not the stellar year that I wanted and anticipated it to be. I faced many walls (not fences) and mountains (not hills). After seething and giving myself some time to think things through,



Faye Shigemura

this was actually a great life lesson in disguise: **While on firm ground, think the bigger picture.** What a *bonbu* I am.

Another realization followed soon after: This is the reason we all try to make New Year resolutions, or re-state our aims or intentions every year.

Why do we make New Year resolutions? For most of us, it is made to uncover the better 'You' in yourself. I will put my husband before my pets; I will home-cook a meal at least once a week; I will think before end up talking back; I will cut back on watching so many Korean dramas; I will stare at that piece of chocolate a full 15 seconds before deciding whether I should eat it or not; I will clean my house once a month; I will leave my eye glasses in the same place every night; I shall take Rev. Kikuchi's cue and reflect more on the meaning of Nembutsu. These are all positive wishes.

We should make serious resolutions three times a year at a minimum, to get to be better persons faster.

All extremists in the world should make resolutions to become Buddhists: By the time they think they've figured things out, they will be too old to do anything about it that's harmful.

Resolutions are for everyone, no exceptions. How can you become a better You?

—Faye Shigemura



Temple volunteers cleaned the Ehime Maru Memorial as part of the year-end Oosouji ritual.

### Oosouji year-end temple cleaning and Ehime Maru Memorial, too

Mahalo to members and friends who took time out from their busy holiday schedules on Dec. 26 to join our *Oosouji*, the age-old Japanese tradition of "big cleaning" at year-end, to help give our temple a fresh start for the new year.

The main hall, columbarium, conference room, restrooms, hallway and exterior received top-to-bottom care and attention.

Next we moved to Kakaako Waterfront Park to hose down and polish the Ehime Maru Memorial. Our cleaning is part of the weekly maintenance done in concert with other community volunteer groups.

While there, we had a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the accident, before the group had lunch together.

### Traditional family *mochi-tsuki* by Betsuin members and friends

The stillness of the morning air early Sunday, Dec. 27, was broken by dull thuds, occasionally accompanied by shouts of "*Yoisho!*" as some 35 members, families and friends took turns wielding the heavy *kine*, or wooden hammer, to pound the mochi rice into sticky mounds.

It was our annual *mochi-tsuki* get-together in preparation for traditional New Year festivities.

By mid-morning, we had made enough mochi for everyone to eat with kinako, shoyu, peanut butter, anko, natto, or daikon oroshi and take home for *kagami-mochi* decorative displays.

If you didn't join us this time, be sure to be part of this annual year-end tradition next time around! It's fun, educational and good exercise, too!

### New Year service Jan. 1 at 10 am

Start the new year off by listening to the dharma from Day One in 2016 at our **Shusho-e New Year service on Friday, Jan. 1 at 10 am.**

Following the service, join us for fellowship with other members and enjoy a hot bowl of *ozoni*, with mochi, of course, hand-crafted just a few days earlier at the temple.

Hope to see you there!

### January movie, *Still Walking*, gets ★★★★★ rating from Roger Ebert

This 2008 Japanese film, directed by Hirokazu Koreeda, is a portrait of a late summer family commemoration of the death of the eldest son, Junpei, who drowned accidentally 15 years ago while saving the life of another boy. His father Kyohei (Yoshio Harada), a retired doctor, and mother, Toshiko (Kirin Kiki), are joined by their surviving son Ryota (Hiroshi Abe), who has recently married a widow, Yukari (Yui Natsukawa), with a young son, and their daughter Chinami (YOU), her husband and their children. The

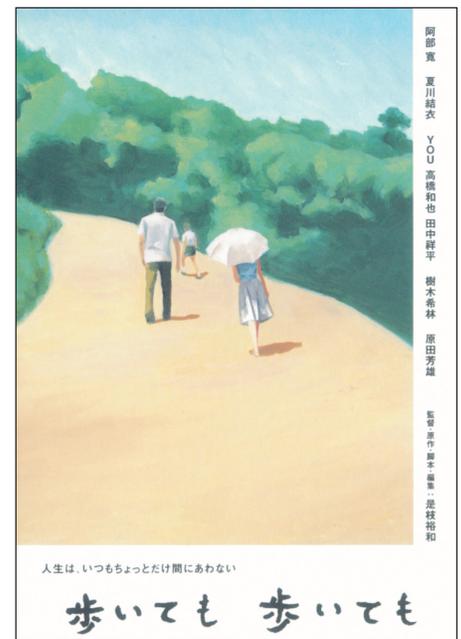
family shares nostalgia, humor, sadness and tension.

*Still Walking* received universal acclaim by film critics. Won Asian Film Award for Best Director, Mainichi Film Award for Best Actor, Hiroshi Abe.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Jan. 26. 114 min. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments. Feel free to bring your own snacks.

### 歩いてても歩いても

夏の終わりの季節。高台に建つ横山家。開業医だった恭平はすでに引退して妻・とし子とこの家で2人暮らし。その日、久々に子どもたちがそれぞれの家族を連れて帰郷した。その日は、15年前に亡くなった長男の命日だったのだ。次男の良多は、もともと父とそりが合わなかった上、子連れのゆかりと再婚して日が浅かったこともあって渋々の帰郷。両親がいまだそれぞれに長男の死を受け止めきれずにいることが、良多の心をますます重くする。いつも陽気でソツのない長女の



ちなみは、そんな家族のあいだを取り持ち、家の中に軽い空気を持ち込むが…。

受賞：アジア・フィルム・アワード、監督賞。毎日映画コンクール、主演男優賞（阿部寛）

監督：是枝裕和、出演者：良多：阿部寛、ゆかり：夏川結衣、ちなみ：YOU、恭平：原田芳雄、とし子：樹木希林。

公開：2008、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：114分、1月26日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

# Going bananas



## over monkey proverbs

by Ken Saiki

As you probably know, according to Asian legend each year is represented by one of the 12 animals from the ancient Chinese zodiac. The year 2016 is ruled by the Monkey (猴 or 申 *saru*), which is the ninth in the cycle of all the zodiac animals.

In popular culture, people born during monkey years are said to inherit some of the animal's personality traits, such as being inventive problem solvers. Monkey people are supposedly smart when making financial deals.

We've all heard the saying, "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" and associate it with the famous 17th-century



The Nikko monkeys mirror the "Right View, Right Thought/Mindfulness and Right Speech" Buddhist code of conduct of The Eightfold Path.

carving at Toshogu Shrine in Nikko of three monkeys covering their eyes, ears and mouth.

You may have wondered what monkeys have to do with this teaching of not dwelling on evil thoughts. The answer is, apparently nothing, other than being part of a play on words. The "three monkeys" saying in Japanese is 見猿、聞か猿、言わ猿 or *mizaru, kikazaru, iwazaru*. The word *-zaru* is the archaic literary form of *-nai*, or "not," and *-zaru* also happens to be what *saru* changes to in a compound word (like "sushi" changes to "zushi" in "makizushi").

Monkeys are the subject of many Japanese proverbs. Here are more than you'll ever need:

### 猴に木登り

#### *saru ni ki nobori*

#### Tree-climbing to a monkey.

This proverb is used in those situations when someone is giving advice to others about a subject they already know (and probably better than the one trying to give the advice).

### 猿も木から落ちる

#### *saru mo ki kara ochiru*

#### Even monkeys fall from trees.

On the other hand, nobody's perfect. Monkeys occasionally will lose their balance and fall. Even experts sometimes make mistakes.

Karuta game card with proverb



### 猿の花見

#### *saru no hanami*

#### Monkey viewing cherry blossoms.

Drinking sake and other alcoholic beverages is a popular pastime while sitting under the trees and viewing cherry blossoms. The proverb describes a person getting drunk and red-faced, ending up looking just like a monkey.

### 猿のしり笑

#### *saru no shiri warai*

#### Laughing at monkeys' rear ends.

Monkeys may laugh at the sight of other monkeys' red *okoles*, not realizing theirs are similar. The proverb pokes fun at those who ridicule others without noticing their own shortcomings.

### 犬と猿

#### *inu to saru*

#### 犬猴の仲

#### *ken-en no naka*

#### Like dogs and monkeys.

Dogs (猴 or *inu*) and (猴 or *saru*) are not animals that are naturally friendly with each other. The saying is often used to describe the relationship between wives and their mothers-in-law. "Ken-en no naka" describes the same animosity. *Ken-en* is the *on-yomi*, or Chinese style reading, of the kanji for *inu* and *saru*.

### 猴に烏帽子

#### *saru ni eboshi*

#### An eboshi on a monkey.

*Eboshi* is the elongated headgear worn by Japanese nobles in ancient times. The saying compares the silliness of an *eboshi* on a monkey to the futility of doing or being something which is beyond one's capabilities. "No fine clothes can hide the clown" is a Western equivalent.

### 猿の水練、魚の木登

#### *saru no suiren, uo no ki nobori*

#### A monkey's water lily, fish climbing a tree.

This proverb uses the monkey's supposed inability to swim to describe an impossible feat. What's interesting, however, is the fact that Japanese monkeys actually have been observed swimming long distances, sometimes even hundreds of yards.

### 猿の人真似

#### *saru no hitomane*

#### A person imitating a monkey.

This implies the foolishness of copying others without thinking, in mindless "monkey-see, monkey-do" fashion.

### 猿が仏を笑う

#### *saru ga hotoke o warau*

#### A monkey laughs at a Buddha.

This proverb describes the inability of monkeys to differentiate between a fool and a great mind. A shallow-brained person laughs at great thoughts from great men.

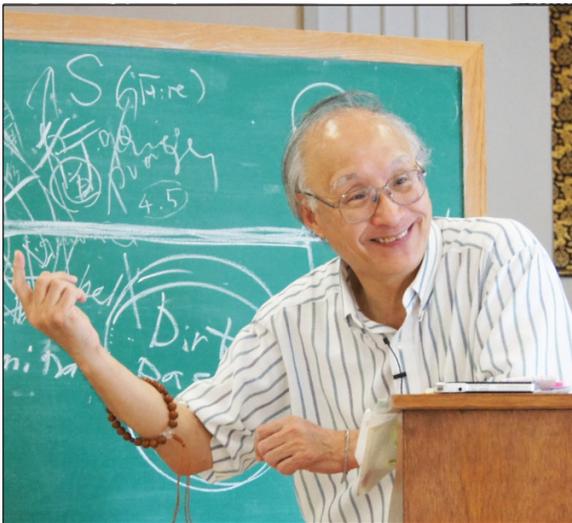


# HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT

## 2016 DOBO RETREAT PROGRAM DISTRICT DHARMA GATHERING

We wish to invite you to attend the 2016 District Dharma Gathering of Higashi Honganji Hawaii District. We will invite Dr. Nobuo Haneda, the head of the Maida Center, Berkeley as our guest speaker. The theme of the Gathering is "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish" Please send the application form below to the Hawaii District office or to ministers of your local temple.

Date: Saturday, February 6, 2016  
Time: 10:00 am — 4:00 pm  
Speaker: Dr. Nobuo Haneda (Maida Center of Buddhism)  
Location: Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin  
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Phone: (808) 531-1231, Fax: (808) 531-1231  
Theme: "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish"  
Fee: \$10.00 (payable to Higashi Honganji Hawaii District)



### Dr. Nobuo Haneda Biography

- 1946 Born in Nagano, Japan.
- 1968 Read Shuichi Maida's work and became interested in Buddhism
- 1969 Graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.
- 1971 Studied under Revs. Gyomei Kubose and Gyoko Saito.
- 1979 Received Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin.
- 1979 Lecturer, Otani University, Kyoto, Japan.
- 1981 Lecturer, Buddhist Educational Center, Chicago, IL.
- 1984 Head Professor, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, CA.
- 1987 Researcher, Numata Center, Berkeley, CA.
- 1997 Director, Maida Center of Buddhism, Berkeley, CA.

If you have any questions, please contact your local temple or the district office at:

Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Office  
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Phone: (808) 531-1231, Fax: (808) 531-1231, Email: [admindaloha@higashihonganji.org](mailto:admindaloha@higashihonganji.org)

..... Detach Here .....

I would like to participate in the 2016 District Dharma Gathering.

Name

Temple

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## GO GREEN!

Many of us have implemented ways we can "go green" to help reduce the impact on our environment. In many cases we can save money at the same time. We practice recycling at the Betsuin and have switched to energy-saving lights, where possible.

Getting your monthly WA bulletin by email instead of on paper may be another way to conserve resources.

To switch to an electronic version of our WA newsletter, send an email, with subject line "Email WA," including your name and addresses, to the Betsuin at [betsuin@hhbt-hi.com](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.com).

Starting next month, your WA will arrive in your email inbox instead of your regular mailbox.

BONUS...it'll be in color, too!

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICES

According to Buddhist tradition, special anniversary memorial services, or *nenki hoyo*, are observed during certain auspicious years following the passing of an individual. In 2016, anniversary memorial services are traditionally held for those who passed away in the following years:

2015	1st anniversary	一周忌	<i>isshuuki</i>
2014	3rd year memorial	三回忌	<i>sankaiki</i>
2010	7th year memorial	七回忌	<i>nanakaiki</i>
2004	13th year memorial	十三回忌	<i>jyuusankaiki</i>
2000	17th year memorial	十七回忌	<i>jyuunanakaiki</i>
1992	25th year memorial	二十五回忌	<i>nijyuugokaiki</i>
1984	33rd year memorial	三十三回忌	<i>sanjyuusankaiki</i>
1967	50th year memorial	五十回忌	<i>gojyuukaiki</i>

Anniversary services may be held at the temple or some other location of your choosing, such as your home. Holding the service at home is especially convenient for people who may have health or transportation issues. The ministers will be happy to accommodate your preference.

Please call the Betsuin office at 531-9088 if you'd like more information about scheduling anniversary memorial services.

## SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR JANUARY

Our monthly *shōtsuki* service in remembrance of temple family members who passed away in the month of January of a previous year will be held this month on **Sunday, January 3**.

The following list includes temple members whose deaths occurred in the past 25 years.

Please call the office at 531-9088 if you have any questions about the listing.

Edward K. Anami	Yuhiro Iwasaki	James Shigeru Murotake	Sadao Shinkawa
Kazuko Arakawa	Takumi Kajioaka	Masao Nakahara	Kiyoshi Shinsato
Tomi Asato	Dwight Kalani Kamae	Gary Tadashi Nakasato	Akino Shirabe
Janet Emiko Cho	Harriet Ichiko Kawakami	Shizuko Nakasone	Itoko Sueyoshi
Shirley Shizue Curek	Mabel Shinano Kihara	Shigeto Nishimura	Alice Hatsumi Sur
Nobuyuki Fukunaga	Tetsuo Koga	Fred Masatoshi Nishiyama	Hideko Takaki
Harold Katsumi Hamamoto	Kimiko Kubo	Colleen Chizuko Nishiyama	Nobuyo Tanaka
Darrell Kazumi Higa	Takeo Maekawa	Neil Hichiyoshi Nishizawa	Jean Tanaka
Masaichi Higa	Tamiko Koshobu Mashima	Leatrice Sakayo Nomura	Tome Tokunaga
Rose Chieko Hirata	Naka Mesaku	Tsuya Oasa	Tadakazu Tsuda
Arthur T. Hiroshima	Yuiko Michioku	Robert Mamoru Oba	Richard Masato Uchida
Shigeko Hosaka	Jitsuo Mimuro	Toyome Ogata	Violet Shigeko Uyesato
Betty Midori Hoshino	Rihachi Mitomi	Ichiji Okamoto	Richard Yoshio Wataru
George Shinichi Ige	Grace Tamie Mitsuka	Elsie Tokie Takafumi Okawa	Jean Toshiko Yamamoto
Sadami Ikeda	Masayuki Miyasato	Hiromu Okihiro	Kikumi Yamato
Dorothea Fujiko Inoshita	Jane Nobuko Miyashiro	Shizuka Onishi	Susumu Yamauchi
Sadame Ishida	Sharie Keiko Miyazaki	Isamu Oshiro	William Hideo Yamura
Yoshie Ishimatsu	Noboru Miyazaki	Masao Oshiro	Elsie Kaoru Yoshimura
Harry Yukiya Iwanaga	Masayuki Mori	Shizue Otsuka	Lester Saburo Yoshino



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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### JANUARY

1/1	Fri	10 am	<b>New Year service - 修正会 (Shusho-e)</b> <i>Ozoni served after service</i>
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)
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 at Kaneohe</b>
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: <i>Still Walking</i> (2008)</b> 歩いてても歩いても
1/28	Thu	10 am	<b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>
1/31	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>

### FEBRUARY

2/6	Sat	10 am	<b>District Dharma Gathering</b> Speaker: Dr. Nobuo Haneda Maida Center of Buddhism, Berkeley
2/7	Sun	10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
2/7	Sun	12 pm	<b>Art of Paper Crafting class</b> Otani Center
2/9	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
2/11	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
2/13	Sat	10 am	<b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b> led by Rev. Frank Childs
2/14	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
2/14	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
2/16	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin</b>
2/21	Sun	10 am	<b>Nirvana Day service &amp; Sunday school</b>
2/21	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
2/23	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
2/23	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: <i>I Wish</i> - 奇跡 (2011)</b>
2/28	Sun	10 am	<b>Onicchu service</b>
2/28	Sun	11 am	<b>General membership meeting &amp; Shinnenkai (New Year's party)</b> Otani Center

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.