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harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

5  
May 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

Rinban: Kenjun Kawawata  
Minister: Koen Kikuchi

President: Faye Shigemura  
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Secretary: Debra Saiki  
Treasurer: Edmund Nakano  
Asst. Sec’y & Auditor: Ken Saiki

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

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Editor: Ken Saiki



**T**he Memorial Day custom of honoring Americans who died while in military service can be traced back to the American Civil War. Although placing flowers on soldiers’ graves has been done since ancient times, it is said that the first soldier’s grave to be decorated during the Civil War was in Warrenton, Virginia, on June 3, 1861.

With more than 600,000 Union and Confederate soldiers losing their lives in the war, the practice gained significance and eventually a day in May was set aside for memorial activities for “Decoration Day,” which became commonly known as “Memorial Day” after World War II.

Today Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed annually in the U.S. on the last Monday in May to remember the people who died while serving in the country’s armed forces. On that day the U.S. flag is raised, then lowered to half-staff in memory of the more than million men and women who lost their lives while in service to their country. At noon the flag is then raised to full-staff and remains there for the rest of the day as a tribute to the living.



Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

As you know, once a war is started, not only soldiers die, but civilians, too, become innocent victims of war. So that is why we hold an All Wars Memorial Service at the Betsuin for all people—military and civilians—who died as a result of past wars.

Countries wage war for a variety of reasons: advancement of national interests, self-defense, resource grab, territorial disputes and so on.

The reason often cited for going to war is, ironically, the pursuit of peace and happiness. If we sincerely desire a world of peace and harmony, however, we have to find a different way to come up with solutions. I think even children know that. Although adults, we cannot seem to come up with peaceful solutions and we go to war, or depend on huge military forces and arms stockpiles to speak for us. We human beings are so foolish and ignorant. Throughout our history, and even today, we are constantly in conflicts and at war.

The Buddha said that we—all humans—produce three poisons: greed, anger and ignorance. We produce these three poisons and we suffer. These are the real causes of our conflicts and wars in this world. So we have to know our true nature of ourselves before we judge others.

Prince Shotoku, legendary statesman during the Asuka period (538-710) and a devout Buddhist, said let’s cease from wrath and refrain from angry looks. Nor let us be resentful when others differ from us. For all people have hearts, and each heart has its own leanings. Their right is our wrong, and

(cont’d on p. 2)

### SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES AT THE BETSUIN

Tuesday, May 24	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Fires on the Plain</i> (野火)
Sunday, May 28	10 am	All Wars Memorial Service

## MEMORIAL DAY (cont'd from p.1)

our right is their wrong. We are not unquestionably sages, nor are they unquestionably fools. Both of us are simply ordinary people. How can anybody lay down a rule by which we distinguish right from wrong? For we are all one with another, wise and foolish, like a ring which has no end.

So we have to know the true nature of our human selves. Then we can share the same sadness, respect and joys of life.

After World War II ended, Rev. Haya Akegarasu, a modern thinker of our Higashi Hongwanji tradition, stated, "Arrogance and greediness are the cause of warfare. Respect and love are the cause of peace."

"The teaching of Buddha is not a teaching to become strong and powerful. The teaching of Buddha is teaching to become respectful and embracing others. The origin of teaching of respect and embracing is realizing the self that is respected and embraced in the world of oneness."

"Written letters in Japan always begin with respect and end with respect. The tea ceremony and any martial arts begin with respect. Parents respect children, children respect parents, a husband respects a wife, a wife respects a husband, brothers and sisters respect each other. Respect is in our daily lives."

"Reciting Namu Amida Butsu (bowing) means to respect the Soviet Union, to respect the United States and embrace the Soviet Union and the United States. Before Namu Amida Butsu (bowing) there are no enemies or allies. We just have Namu Amida Butsu (bowing) inside and outside."

Amidst the confusion after the war, Rev.

Akegarasu was

saying that to respect each other, we need to listen to each other and have a deep understanding of each other as one who shares the pains and joys of life together.

Our challenge is to find out how we can open our ears to others and how we can listen to each other in a deep and respectful level in our daily lives. I think doing the nembutsu means listening to the dharma, as well as truly listening.

With everyone's cooperation in cultivating and improving the art of listening in a respectful and loving way, we can all work together to achieve peace.

In gassho,  
Kenjun Kawawata

**"Arrogance and greediness are the cause of warfare. Respect and love are the cause of peace."**

## Little Differences: U.S. & Japan - Memorial Day

**M**emorial Day is a U.S. holiday in May to honor men and women who lost their lives in military service. In Japan a "Memorial Day" of sorts is also celebrated in May, the first of three consecutive national holidays:

**May 3:** Constitution Memorial Day, (憲法記念日, or *Kenpō Kinenbi*), to celebrate the date the democratic Constitution of Japan was put into effect in 1947 after World War II.

**May 4:** Greenery Day (みどりの日, or *Midori no Hi*), dedicated to nature and the environment.

**May 5:** Children's Day (こどもの日, or *Kodomo no Hi*), also known as Boys' Day (端午の節句, or *Tango no Sekku*).

And, as if having three official days off in a row wasn't fortuitous enough, **April 29**, Showa Day (昭和の日, or *Showa no Hi*), Emperor Hirohito's birthdate and a day to reflect on the turbulent Showa Era, is also a national holiday.

This convergence of four full-fledged holidays within a one-week period provides a golden opportunity to travel, and that's one reason it's known as "**Golden Week**."

This year, with April 29 being a Friday, right off the bat there's a three-day weekend. May 3-5, Tuesday through Thursday, are holidays, so all you need to do is take two days—May 1 and May 6—off as vacation days and, oh, joy, you have ten straight days to take an extended trip!

Some companies shut down operations completely during Golden Week to give employees time off. Bosses apparently want, and deserve, time off, too.

Nearly 24 million people in Japan are expected to make overnight or longer trips during Golden Week this year. Popular visitor attractions will be packed, transportation facilities strained and hotels are booked solid.

Blessed with a stronger yen and cheaper oil, resulting in lower fuel surcharges on airfares, more than half a million Japanese are expected to travel overseas. While many Japanese visitors may avoid Europe this year because of the terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, "safe" Hawaii may end up as a beneficiary of increased tourism and spending.

Once the holidays are over, the infamous "U-Turn Rush" begins, with highway traffic into Tokyo backed up as much as 25 miles and thousands of travelers at airports and train stations with omiyage stuffed in their bags awaiting transportation home.

The recent Kyushu earthquakes have not only resulted in loss of lives and homes, but have damaged visitor attractions and affected access to many areas, and will cause changes in Golden Week travel plans for many.

Meanwhile, nestled in continuing quake coverage on NHK News was a heartwarming story of young workers from all over Japan committing their Golden Week time off to volunteer to help in the Kumamoto relief effort, assisting at shelters, delivering supplies, collecting donations and pitching in the rebuilding process.

Amidst the glitter of Golden Week and the tragedy of a devastating natural disaster lie acts of true *dana* giving.

— Ken Saiki





.A standing-room-only crowd of about 200 people filled the Betsuin hondo at the Hawaii Buddhist Council annual Buddha Day service held on April 10. Photo by Rev. Hiroko Maeda

### HBC Buddha Day packs 'em in

April 10 was very lively at the Betsuin as Higashi Hongwanji hosted this year's Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day service.

Every single seat in the hondo—supplemented by wheelchairs and folding chairs—was occupied during the Hanamatsuri service. Others had to stand outside and listen through the open windows.

Even the altar platform was fully occupied by ministers of the various HBC sects and members of the Hawaii Gagaku Society, who provided Japanese court music and dance.

Attendees poured sweet tea in the colorfully decorated *hanamido*, the handiwork of Faye Shigemura, Debra Saiki and other temple members.

Bishop Ken Kawawata officiated the service and guest speaker Chizuko Endo, co-founder of Taiko Center of the Pacific, gave a history of the taiko and gagaku connection to Buddhism.

Where did everyone park? Thanks to the theater-style system devised by Jonathan Tani and Jim Dote, some 85 cars were able to mimic sardines and fit neatly in the Betsuin lot.

After the service, Otani Center was said to be way busier serving up tasty and satisfying lunches than even Liliha Bakery down the street!

For entertainment, attendees were treated to a children's musical variety show performed by youngsters representing the Soto, Jodo and Higashi & Honpa Hongwanji Missions.

Mahalo to all who helped with the service and food drive to benefit the less fortunate in our community.

### Kumamoto earthquake relief

Our Kyoto headquarters is assisting the earthquake relief efforts in Kyushu through temples in the affected areas.

If you wish to be a part of this relief effort and help out with a check or cash donation of any amount, we will collect and forward your contribution to Japan. Please indicate "Kyushu Earthquake Relief" on checks made payable to "Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii."

### Men step up for Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8, is Mother's Day, and the temple men have agreed to do all the preparations for lunch after the Mother's Day family service. And do the cleaning up afterwards, too!

### Kon Ichikawa's *Fires on the Plain* is Memorial Day movie selection

Continuing our tradition of showing films depicting the futility of war around Memorial Day each year, we guarantee that you won't forget May's movie, *Fires on the Plain* (1959), anytime soon.

An agonizing portrait of desperate Japanese soldiers stranded on Leyte Island during World War II, *Fires on the Plain* (novel by Shohei Ooka) is a compelling descent into psychological and physical oblivion. Denied hospital treatment for tuberculosis and cast off into the unknown, Pvt. Tamura (Eiji Funakoshi) treks across an unfamiliar Philippine landscape, encountering an

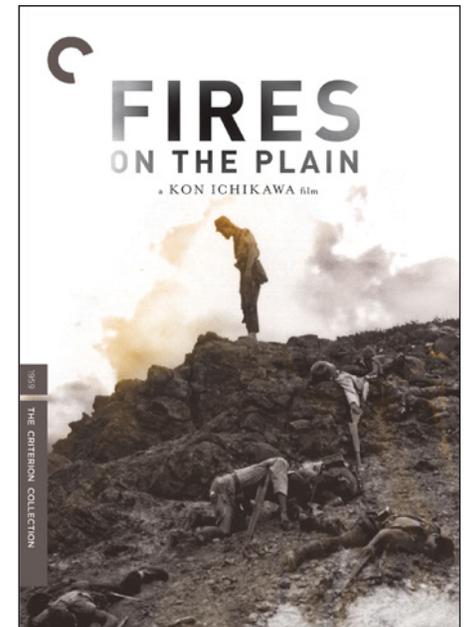
increasingly debased cross-section of Imperial Army soldiers, including Yasuda (Osamu Takizawa) and Nagamatsu (Mickey Curtis), who eventually give in to eating "monkey" meat.

Directed by Kon Ichikawa (*Harp of Burma*) with screenplay by Natto Wada, it won Japan's 1960 Best Director & Cinematography (Blue Ribbon Awards), Best Screenplay & Actor (Kinema Junpo) and Best Actor (Mainichi Film Concours).

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., May 24. 104 min. B&W. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments provided.

### 野火 (のび)

大岡昇平の同名小説を、和田夏十が脚色し市川崑が監督した反戦映画。病院にも部隊にも見放された田村(船越英二)は、フィリピン戦線のレイテ島をさまよっていた。同じように敗走している仲間と病院の前で合流するが、その病院が砲撃を受けたため、田村は一人で逃げ出す。食べるものもなく、仲間を失った田村は、草を食べて生き延びていた。やがて生き別れたかつての仲間である永松(三



ツキー・カーティス)と安田(滝沢修)と再会。二人は殺した味方の兵士を“猿”と称し、その肉を食べていた…。

受賞：ブルーリボン賞監督賞、撮影賞、ベストテン第2位/キネマ旬報ベストテン第2位、脚本賞、男優賞、その他。

公開：1959、モノクロ、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：108分、5月24日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

# HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII DHARMA STUDY CENTER

presents a four-part lecture series

## Buddhism and Different Religions

Guest lecturer: Dr. George Tanabe

Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii



Gain insight into other major religions in the world by looking at what their scriptures say. Develop a better understanding of other peoples through their teachings and beliefs.

Tues., June 14 **Hindu Scriptures:** the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita

Wed., June 15 **Jewish Scripture:** The Hebrew Bible

Thur., June 16 **Christian Scripture:** The New Testament

Fri., June 17 **Islamic Scripture:** The Koran

**Time:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm each evening

**Place:** Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
1685 Alaneo Street (corner N. Kuakini St.)  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**Fee:** \$9 per lecture



Dr. George Tanabe

*Dr. George Tanabe is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Religion at University of Hawaii - Manoa, where he taught courses on World Religions and Japanese Religions from 1977 to 2006. He is currently President of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) Hawaii, and is also President of BDK America in Berkeley, CA. With his wife, Dr. Willa Tanabe, he co-authored the guidebook, Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii, published by University of Hawaii Press.*

**YES!** I plan to attend the Dharma Study Center lecture series, "Buddhism and Different Religions."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII**

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



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

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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### MAY

5/1	Sun	10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
5/1	Sun	12 pm	<b>Jimmy's Car Care class</b> Fukuhara Conference Room
5/8	Sun	10 am	<b>Mother's Day family service &amp; Sunday school</b> Otoki lunch prepared by temple men
5/8	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
5/10	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
5/12	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
5/15	Sun	10 am	<b>Shinran Shonin Birthday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
5/15	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
5/17	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
5/22	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
5/24	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
5/24	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: <i>Fires on the Plain</i> (1959)</b>
5/28	Sat	10 am	<b>Shinran Shonin memorial service</b>
5/29	Sun	10 am	<b>All Wars Memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>

### JUNE

6/5	Sun	10 am	<b>Local dharma gathering</b> Guest speaker: Rev. Hiroko Maeda
6/9	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
6/12	Sun	10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
6/12	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
6/14	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
6/14	Tue	7 pm	<b>Hindu Scriptures: <i>the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita</i></b>
6/15	Wed	7 pm	<b>Jewish Scripture: <i>The Hebrew Bible</i></b>
6/16	Thu	7 pm	<b>Christian Scripture: <i>The New Testament</i></b>
6/17	Fri	7 pm	<b>Islamic Scripture: <i>The Koran</i></b>
6/19	Sun	10 am	<b>Father's Day family service &amp; Sunday school</b>
6/19	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
6/21	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Betsuin
6/26	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
6/28	Tue	10 am	<b>Shinran Shonin memorial service</b>
6/28	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
6/28	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: <i>Late Spring</i> (1949)</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.