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## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

August 2016  
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### 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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Editor: Ken Saiki

## ON UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF

Rev. Koen Kikuchi

The following is a transcript of a dharma message presented by Rev. Koen Kikuchi at our Shotsuki memorial service on Sunday, July 3, adapted for publication in Wa.

Hello everyone. Welcome to our monthly Shotsuki memorial service. Today is a day to reflect upon loved ones and keep them alive in our hearts with gratitude through the teaching of the Buddha. Thank you for attending and gathering for this service so that we can share this time and place.

We remember our loved ones, not only when we attend this service, but also whenever we want to offer something for them even if it's just something insignificant. It doesn't have to be anything special. The more we feel the sadness of someone departing from us, the more we seek to do something for them.

If we didn't do enough for loved ones, such as our grandparents, parents, children or friends who are already gone, the feeling will become much greater than we want to do as much as we can. This is human nature, but we don't truly understand this feeling until we have lost a loved one. I think most of you understand this feeling. We regret things in past when we feel perhaps we didn't do enough. We are in the past at this time. We are thinking about these past regrets and attachments.

Also, sometimes we find ourselves dwelling on the future. Many times, I am very busy with my minister duties, housework and child care. If I have something important I need to do at the temple, I tend to think more and more about it without considering the housework that needs to be done and the children. Even if one of my children is in front of me and talking, it's like I am not there. My mind is up in the air. It is somewhere else in the future.

Let's use an insurance policy as an example to help you understand better what I'm talking about. We buy life insurance because we want to have a feeling of relief in case something unforeseen happens. But life insurance doesn't guarantee our lives. Most of the time, it guarantees just money. If we lose our lives, would the insurance be helpful for our own lives? We can say that it can be very helpful for our family who receives the insurance proceeds, but it can't help us. Is it true relief for us? Insurance might be a burden for our present lives if we think about it and realize that it won't help us personally in the future. Once again, it is an attachment to the unknown.

How about when we purchase a lottery ticket or go to Las Vegas? Before we buy the ticket or before we arrive at the casinos, we picture ourselves winning. We think, "Wow, if I get lucky I'll be able

**"Without understanding self-centeredness, we may end up with just self-satisfaction."**

to buy this, go there or do that!" I'm always surprised by this wishful thinking. This feeling is like when we were little and couldn't wait for our birthday to come. We feel we are in a wonderful, new world of hope. Granted, it's fun to think about. This is the reason people become addicted. If a relative or close friend wins big, you'll probably never stop thinking about your turn at making a fortune. I think the person who originally thought of the lottery or building Las Vegas knew very well about human nature and greediness. In the end, however, what we end up seeing is the harsh reality.

We usually try to reach for something far from us, and we struggle. We

(cont'd on p. 2)



Rev. Koen Kikuchi

**ON UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF** (cont'd from p.1) think there are wonderful things outside of us, so we seek them. We usually stay in the past and wander into the future because we are not satisfied with our present moment. We try to get happy things, try not to lose them and try to avoid bad things. We're so busy doing these things, there is no fulfillment in the present moment. Even if we experience satisfaction, it usually doesn't last very long.

Some people may say that unhappy things don't last a long time, either. This is true. Everything is constantly changing in this world, so we cannot say something lasts forever. But we can say that there is suffering in repetition. If the suffering is bearable, we think it's OK. We don't mind too much. But if the suffering is too hard to cope with, then the repetition becomes intolerable.

Endless suffering is hopelessness. We only feel desperation. If we have enough energy to overcome the difficulties, it is OK. But if we don't have the strength, we hit the wall of our limitation. But this can be a great opportunity to know our true selves, which is who we are or what we are.

We may think of ourselves as kind of like a banana. Peel it and you'll find something sweet, desirable and precious inside.

But what if we are more like a cabbage instead of a banana? And what if this cabbage is not like one you might find in a supermarket, but more like a homegrown or wild cabbage. The outer leaves are thick and dark green. We have to remove layer after layer of leaves to

get to the usable part. Finally, what we have left is almost nothing. This can happen in our lives.

We're always trying to reach for something beyond our grasp and we struggle. When we reach the end of the rope, we may know our limitation and our true selves and accept that there is nothing we can do. As long as we rely on our self-centered life, we cannot find the meaning of our true selves. When we come to the end and realize that there is nothing, the subject "I" will disappear. If we don't understand self-centeredness, the suffering of repetition will always follow us.

We can say the same thing about wanting to do something for our loved ones who are deceased. Without understanding self-centeredness, we might end up with just self-satisfaction. Most important, this place—and this Shotsuki service—is not for someone else, but for revealing and understanding ourselves.

And it is important to know we are the ones who have the feeling that we want to give or express something to our deceased ones. This is our human nature.

I appreciate very much being able to share the Buddha Dharma with all of you attending this Shotsuki memorial service. Today is a day to reflect upon loved ones and keep them alive in our hearts with gratitude through the teaching of the Buddha. Most important, we can know ourselves through the loved ones and the teaching.

In gassho,  
Koen Kikuchi



**FUKUSHIMA KIDS PROJECT:** Eight children from Fukushima (top row with lei) stopped by the Betsuin on July 25 for a welcome lunch before leaving for a one-week "rest and recuperation respite from radiation" stay on the Big Island. The annual Hawaii District project, coordinated by Rev. Hidesato Kita, is funded by donations from local temple members and other contributors.

Photo by Jim Dote



Bishop Kenjun Kawawata led the Aspiration at a bon service for forgotten immigrants

### Bon service honors immigrants buried at Makiki cemetery

The 289 Japanese "forgotten" contract immigrant laborers buried in a common grave at Makiki cemetery were remembered at a Hawaii Buddhist Council bon service held on July 16. Bishop Kenjun Kawawata co-officiated the service with Bishop Eric Matsumoto of Honpa Hongwanji.

Bishops and ministers representing the seven major Buddhist sects in Hawaii took part in the annual public ceremony sponsored by the United Japanese Society of Hawaii.



**SERVICE HELD AT EHIME MARU MEMORIAL:** Betsun members braved the rain July 31 and remembered the Ehime Maru accident victims at Kakaako Waterfront Park as Rev. Kikuchi led sutra chanting following the cleaning of the memorial. Our next cleaning date is Friday, Dec. 30, in conjunction with our annual year-end Oosouji temple cleaning.

### Chicken and sushi pickup Aug. 21 at the Betsuin parking lot

Be sure to mark Sunday, Aug. 21, on your calendar as a reminder to pick up your fundraiser Hoku barbecue chicken and makizushi between 9 am and 2 pm at the Betsuin parking lot. Enter from the Alaneo St. entrance.

If you haven't sent in your payment yet, please do so by Aug. 15.

And if you need more tickets, please call the temple at 531-9088. A limited number of chicken and sushi may also be available at the pickup site.

We appreciate your continued support of our fundraising efforts through the year to help us sustain our temple programs.

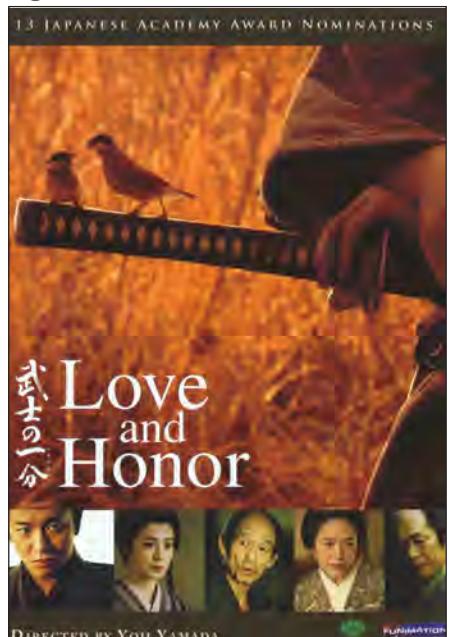
### August movie nominated for 13 Japan Academy Awards

*Love and Honor* (2006) is the final film in the acclaimed Yoji Yamada-directed "samurai trilogy." You may recall that we showed the other two movies, *Twilight Samurai* and *The Hidden Blade* in 2014. *Love and Honor* was nominated for 13 Japan Academy Awards, winning three.

Shinnojo Mimura (Takuya Kimura of SMAP) is a samurai sharing a bare existence as the lord's food taster with his beautiful wife, Kayo (Rei Dan). Frustrated by his lowly status, he dreams of better days. A poisoning

accident takes the warrior's sight. Losing his status and pride, his hopes and dreams, and even himself to this life of eternal darkness, only one path lies open for Shinnojo: that of the true and noble samurai.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Aug. 23. 118 min. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments.



**武士の一分** (ぶしのいちぶん)  
物語は6月の映画『晩春』と似てい  
て、北「たそがれ清兵衛」「隠し剣 鬼  
の爪」に続く、原作・藤沢周平×山田洋  
次監督による時代劇3部作の最終章。

東北・海坂藩の下級武士、三村新之丞は剣術の腕を認められながらも藩主の毒味役に甘んじていた。そんなある日、新之丞はいつも通りに昼食の毒味をしたところ、赤貝の毒にあたり、失明してしまう……。原作は「隠し剣秋風抄」所収の「盲目剣斜(こだま)返し」。

受賞歴[編]集：第30回日本アカデミー賞、優秀作品賞、優秀監督賞、優秀脚本賞、優秀主演女優賞、最優秀助演男優賞、優秀助演女優賞、優秀音楽賞、優秀美術賞、優秀録音賞、最優秀照明賞、優秀編集賞。第25回ゴールデングロス賞 日本映画部門優秀銀賞。

木村拓哉は、事務所の方針により日本アカデミー賞主演男優賞、ブルーリボン賞主演男優賞のノミネートを辞退。

出演者：木村拓哉（SMAP）、檀れい、  
公開：2006年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：118分、8月23日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



# OBON 2016



**B**on dance time! Only problem, Tropical Storm Darby had set its sights on the island chain. The Betsuin bon dance faithful, however, weren't to be deterred. They showed up on Friday evening just as they always have.

Obon remains a time to remember those who came before us...our ancestors. Joining in the candle procession before the Manto-e service was one way to do that. Others lined up early for our legacy food specialties, including nishime, Hawaiian plates, Shimazu shave ice and andagi. Most couldn't wait to jump in the circle to dance to recorded bon odori favorites and live performances by Honolulu Fukushima Bon Dance Club, Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko around the yagura.

Everyone came for the fun, festive atmosphere and re-linking with old friends at this gathering place. We thank everyone for their attendance.

Darby finally made landfall on the Big Island and Saturday's crowd was noticeably thinner due to the imminent threat. Fortunately the weather held out for us and the bon dance went on without a hitch.

Putting on a bon dance of this scale takes weeks of preparation and planning. Betsuin members, families, members from other temples, friends, martial arts volunteers and many others pitched in to make everything come together, and for this we are extremely grateful.

We plan to acknowledge all the folks who helped by name in a future issue of our Wa, but until then please accept this blanket *Mahalo!*



Honolulu Plate	\$3.00
(Lauhan lom 3 items, chicken long rice)	\$3.00
(white rice OR poi)	\$6.00
Lauhan	\$3.00
Lomi Salmon	\$4.00
Long Rice	\$2.00
Poi or Rice	\$7.00
Curry Rice Plate	\$7.00
Nishime Plate	\$7.00
Chili Rice Plate	\$5.00
Chili Dog Plate	\$5.00
Inari Somen	
(Salmon in cone sushi shells)	\$4.00
Saimin	\$3.00
BBQ Stick (Beef)	\$3.00
Zenzai (azuki bean soup w/ mochi)	\$3.00
Spam Musubi	\$2.00





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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### AUGUST

8/7	Sun	10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
8/7	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 Fukuhara Conference Room
8/7	Sun	12 pm	<b>Art of paper folding</b> at Otani Center
8/9	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
8/11	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English
8/14	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service/Sunday school</b>
8/14	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
8/16	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Betsuin
8/21	Sun	10 am	<b>BBQ chicken &amp; sushi sale - Otani Center</b> (no Sunday service)
8/23	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
8/23	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: Love and Honor</b> (2006)
8/27	Sat	9:30 am	<b>12th Dobo Convention - Day 1</b> Hilton Los Angeles Universal City
8/28	Sun	7:30 am	<b>12th Dobo Convention - Day 2</b> Hilton Los Angeles Universal City
8/28	Sun	10 am	<b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b> <b>Sunday service/Sunday school</b>
8/29	Mon	9 am	<b>Optional 2-day extension - Las Vegas</b> Monte Carlo Resort & Casino

### SEPTEMBER

9/4	Sun	10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
9/8	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
9/10	Sat	9 am	<b>Hawaii District meeting</b> Fukuhara Conference Room
9/10	Sat	1 pm	<b>Goenki meeting</b> Fukuhara Conference Room
9/11	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 Fukuhara Conference Room
9/13	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b> Fukuhara Conference Room
9/18	Sun	10 am	<b>Ohigan service/Sunday school</b> Guest speaker: Rev. Shigenori Makino
9/18	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
9/20	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
9/25	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service/Sunday school</b>
9/27	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b> Fukuhara Conference Room
9/27	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night: Sword of Desperation</b> (2010)
9/28	Wed	10 am	<b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b> <b>Sunday service/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.*