

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

November 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
Vice President: Jonathan Tani
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

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

BETSUIN CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE AND SHINRAN SHONIN 750TH MEMORIAL SERVICE

The year: 1916. The world was in the midst of a raging war in Europe. Hawaii had been a territory of the U.S. for only 16 years. Kihei Nomura, a lay Higashi Hongwanji devotee, purchased and remodeled a cottage into a chapel. In May, Rev. Shingyo Doi, from Gifu prefecture, established a temporary Higashi Hongwanji mission on Kukui street in downtown Honolulu to serve the unmet needs of a large local Japanese community.

Although a Higashi Hongwanji presence had already been established in Waimea, Kauai, in 1899, there was no similar facility on Oahu at the time. In September 1916, the mission moved into a new building between Smith and Maunakea streets.

The foundation of the Hawaii Betsuin was made official with a dedication ceremony of the *Gohonzon*, the Amida Buddha statue which Rev. Doi had brought from Japan.

To accommodate the growing numbers of Nembutsu followers and their families on Oahu, the Betsuin

moved to larger facilities on N. King street in Palama in 1921, then to the Banyan street location in 1939. Immediately following the attack of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 and subsequent outbreak of World War II, the temple was shut down and remained closed for the duration of hostilities.

The Betsuin remained without a minister until 1948 but Jodo Shinshu followers continued the Path of the Nembutsu and passed on the teaching. Membership flourished once the temple was able to get back on its feet again. Establishment of a YBA, Jr. YBA, *fujinkai* and other programs such as Sunday school and a seniors club augmented regular temple activities.

In 1983, after more than 60 years in Palama, the Betsuin moved to its current Liliha home on Alaneo St., with the Otani Center social hall added in 1990. The temple's opening was celebrated as a new page in the history of Shinshu Otani-ha Higashi Hongwanji, with the goal of becoming the "center of human liberation through the Teaching of Nembutsu, with the fervent hope that it will respond to the innermost needs of present-day people."

Today the Betsuin supplements its weekly Sunday services with Dharma study classes conducted in English and Japanese, Sunday school, an ukulele band, movie nights, craft classes, community service projects, among various other activities. A new service book has been developed so that chants and gathas at services can be done in English, to take into account the islands' diverse population makeup.

(cont'd on page 2)



Rev. Shingyo Doi (center) served as the temporary Betsuin's first minister at the Kukui St. temple. Photo from Betsuin archives

BETSUIN CENTENNIAL & 750TH GOENKI SPECIAL EVENTS

SAT
NOV
5

**Panel discussion: *Awakening to Your Deepest Wish* - Betsuin
Commemorative banquet - Ala Moana Hotel Garden Lanai**

SUN
NOV
6

**Shinran Shonin 750th Goenki memorial service - Betsuin
Kikyoshiki confirmation ceremony - Betsuin**

CENTENNIAL (cont'd from p. 1)

With renewed commitment, members are determined to ensure Shinran Shonin's teaching continues through the next 100 years to future generations.

We are fortunate to have this chance to observe Shinran Shonin's 750th Goenki memorial service and the Hawaii Betsuin's centennial at the same time to express our gratitude to our founder and his teaching.

We also convey our deepest appreciation to our dharma teachers who have handed down the Nembutsu teaching to the present time.

We've listed below some of the various activities of this once-in-a-lifetime event and look forward to your attendance on Nov. 5 and 6.

Even if you haven't registered yet, you might still be able to get in on some of the activities, so ask your Hawaii District minister for additional information or call the Hawaii District office at (808) 531-1231, or email adminaloha@higashihonganji.org.

Early next year we plan to publish a booklet in commemoration of our centennial celebration and Goenki observance, including highlights and photos from the various events.



What's a Goenki, anyway?

If *Ho-on-ko* is the memorial service we hold for Shinran on his death anniversary, then what is *Goenki*?

Goenki, or 御遠忌, means "honorable memorial service" and refers to the special commemorative services held every 50 years for Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin.

The occasion of this 750th Goenki is an opportunity for us to express our appreciation and reverence for Shinran Shonin and his teaching.

Your handy guide to our 750th Goenki and Centennial activities

Saturday, November 5

- 9:00 am ReceptionBetsuin Hondo
- 10:00 am **English service**Betsuin Hondo
English service book
Welcome: Bishop Kawawata
- 10:30 am **Panel discussion: Awakening...**Betsuin Otani Center
to your Deepest Wish
Dr. Michael Conway
Masago Asai
Glen Kila
Christophor Oliveira
Roberta Kehaulani Fontes
- 12:30 pm **Lunch**
Asst'd sandwich selection
- 1:00 pm **Discussion summary**
Dr. Michael Conway
- 1:30 pm **Closing**
- 2:30 pm **Shuttle bus**Betsuin parking lot
to Ala Moana Hotel
- 3:00 pm **Check in** out-of-town guests ..Ala Moana Hotel
- 5:30 pm **Reception/no-host cocktails** ..Ala Moana Hotel
A Taste of Dana \$5 Mktplace Garden Lanai
- 6:00 pm **Commemorative banquet**
Messages:
Bishop Kenjun Kawawata
Bishop Koi Sato'o
- 6:15 pm **Itadakimasu**
Kanpai toast & dinner
- 7:30 pm **Entertainment**
Hula:
Masago, Mika & Maya Asai
Ukulele performance:
Honoka & Azita
Giveaway game



Guest Lecturer
Dr. Michael Conway



- 8:30 pm **Hula:**
Masago, Mika & Maya Asai
Closing
- Sunday, November 6**
- 10:00 am **Tolling of Bell**Betsuin Hondo
Procession of priests
Gagaku music
Hawaii Gagaku Society
- 10:15 am **Gassho Chanting**
- 10:35 am **Amidakyo & Sange Shoshinge**
Recession of priests
- 11:20 am **Greeting:**
Overseas Abbot Choyu Otani
Dharma message:
Dr. Michael Conway
Words of Appreciation:
Bishop Kenjun Kawawata
- 12:00 pm **Group photo**Betsuin front steps
- 12:20 pm **Confirmation ceremony**Betsuin Hondo
English service book
- 1:15 pm **Break for otoki lunch**Betsuin Otani Center
- 1:20 pm **Gagaku performance**
Hawaii Gagaku Society
- 1:30 pm **Welcome address:**
Faye Shigemura
Congratulatory message:
Bishop Noriaki Ito
- 2:30 pm **100th birthday cake**
- 2:40 pm **Ukulele sing-along**
Dharma Hawaiians
- 3:00 pm **Closing**



Mahalo
Thank you
Obrigado



THE LIFE OF SHINRAN SHONIN

The upcoming Goenki is the 750th memorial service for Shinran Shonin, the founder of our Jodo Shinshu denomination. Shinran was an eminent Buddhist figure of the Kamakura period (1192-1333), a period regarded as “The Golden Age of Japanese Buddhism,” when most of the schools of Japanese Buddhism were founded.

Birth & Spiritual Transformation

Shinran was born in 1173 in the village of Hino, near Uji, Kyoto as the first son of Fujiwara (Hino) Arinori. It was the time when the aristocratic Heian period (794-1185) was coming to an end and the age of the warrior was just beginning, as the Genji and Heike clans were fighting each other.

At the age of nine, Shinran received ordination at Shōren-in (a temple of the Tendai denomination) at Awataguchi (Higashiyama, Kyoto), with the name of Hannen and entered upon the Buddhist path. Later, he went to Mt. Hiei, the center of the Tendai denomination and single-mindedly devoted himself to Buddhist studies. In spite of 20 years of such endeavors however, Shinran could not find the way to overcome suffering and anxiety. In his turmoil, he secluded himself in Rokkaku-dō temple (Kyoto) and while there, had a profound spiritual experience. As a result, he was able to meet Hōnen (1133-1212) who was then living in Yoshimizu at Higashiyama. There, Shinran encountered the teaching, “Just say the Nembutsu, and be saved by Amida,” and began to walk along the Nembutsu Path of the Primal Vow. He was 29 years old at that time.

Persecution

Many people gathered around Hōnen, regardless of differences in status and position. This, however, caused friction with the long-standing Buddhist establishments, and in 1207, Hōnen was exiled to Tosa province (present-day Kochi prefecture), and his disciples were either sentenced to death or exiled. Shinran (35 years old) was exiled to Echigo province (present-day Niigata prefecture) with the secular name of Fujii Yoshizane. He never saw his teacher Hōnen again.

Sharing the Dharma

Taking his exile as an opportunity, Shinran resolved anew to live in the Nembutsu teaching, and regarded himself as an “ignorant bald-headed disciple of the Buddha.” He married Eshinni, and while living among the local people, he shared the Nembutsu teaching with them. Although he was pardoned five years later, Shinran, knowing of the death of Hōnen, did not return to Kyoto, but instead headed toward the Kantō area (the region, surrounding present-day Tokyo) with his family. Through living in such places as Shimotsuma, Kojima, and Inada (all in present-day Ibaraki prefecture), he shared the Nembutsu teaching with many people.

Returning to Kyoto

After living in the Kantō area for about twenty years, Shinran, in his early sixties, returned to Kyoto. Just around that time, he finished compiling his major work, the *Ken Jōdo Shinjitsu Kyōgyōshō Monrui* (popularly known as *Kyōgyōshinshō*), which he had been working on for about ten years. Even without a permanent residence in Kyoto, he enthusiastically continued his writings, including the *Songō Shinzō Meimon* (The Inscription on the Sacred Name and Images) and the *Sanjō Wasan* (The Triple Hymns). He completed these writings to clarify and hand down the path he had encountered through Hōnen, so that all people could be saved equally together.

Further, through writing letters, Shinran continued to convey the Nembutsu teaching to his fellow practitioners (*dōgyō*) in the Kantō area. At the same time, they visited him in Kyoto continuously, and he confirmed this teaching with them.

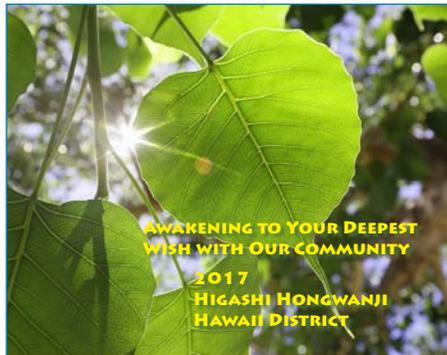


Shinran's "Portrait of Anjo" at Honganji in Kyoto

The Final Days of Shinran

On November 28, 1262, Shinran's 90 years of life ended while his youngest daughter, Kakushinni, and his followers were caring for him. In spite of hardships, he lived life totally entrusting himself to Amida's Primal Vow and clarifying the true teaching of the Pure Land, through encountering his teacher, Hōnen.

From *The Life of Shinran*, www.higashihonganji.or.jp



Hawaii District 2017 calendar to focus on role of our community

Watch for an announcement of availability of Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District's 2017 calendar, expected to be distributed in late November or early December.

The new calendar theme awakens us to deepen our wish especially to our role in the world around us. We exist in a community, or many communities. And, like it or not, we live in a technology-driven global community.

In our modern lives, the events in our home or across the planet may bring surprising causes and conditions. For many, most of our awake moments are centered around our wishes; how might we "protect our family or worth," or, how we might "gain something" from the economic, social, political and humankind communities.

It is hoped that the theme of our 2017 calendar may give each of us

the opportunity to pause and reflect on being selfless and a seeker of the truth each time we view this calendar. Further, to awaken us to the concept that we exist as one community, instead of fragmented communities.

Let's seek and learn each day, each moment, all year 'round as a Sangha community, loving and enriching this one community.

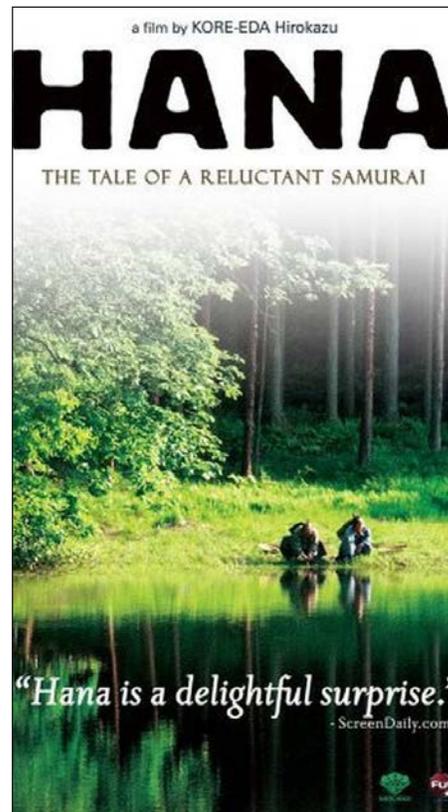
As in the past, we appreciate any donations to help defray the costs of printing and mailing the calendars. Additional copies may be available at the Betsuin office as well as other Higashi Hongwanji temples.

Warm, light-hearted film, *Hana*, is mixture of laughter and emotion

Hana: The Tale of a Reluctant Samurai takes place in 1702. Aoki Sozaemon (Junichi Okada), a young country samurai, has come to the Edo tenements to locate and take revenge against his father's killer and restore honor to his clan's name. He discovers, however, that his intended victim, another low-status samurai, has a wife and young children. To exact revenge or not?

Also living in the slum are a young widow, Osae (Rie Miyazawa), with whom he becomes romantically involved, and a group of samurai, members of The 47 Ronin, hiding and planning before their revenge attack. You'll enjoy this light-hearted drama! Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Nov. 22,

127 min. Directed by award-winning Hirokazu Koreeda. Released in 2006. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!



花よりもなほ (はなよりもなほ)

元禄15年、徳川5代将軍綱吉の治世。巷では、赤穂浪士が切腹させられた主君、浅野内匠頭の仇を討つかどうかが大きな関心ごととなっていた。信州松本から江戸に出てきた若者、青木宗左衛門（岡田准一）が貧乏長屋に腰を据えて、2年が経とうとしていた。宗左は剣術師範だった父を斬り、江戸へ逃亡した金沢十兵衛を捜して町を回るが、一向に見つけれられない。仇討ちが上手くいけば百両は報奨金がもらえるが、今では里からの仕送りも途絶えがちだ。しかも宗左は剣の腕はからっきしで、長屋の遊び人・そで吉にこてんぱんに負かされる。宗左の向かいには美しい未亡人・おさえ(宮沢りえ)とその息子・進之助が住んでおり、宗左はおさえにほのかな恋心を抱いていた。

監督：是枝裕和、公開：2006年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：127分、11月22日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



Some of the more than dozen volunteers who responded to the call for help with omigaki, or polishing of altar decorations, in preparation for the centennial celebration and Goenki.

JAPANESE DANCE PERFORMANCE
TAKAMASA FUJIMA

【 HARMONY OF JAPAN 】

THE TRADITIONAL ART TO LINK HAWAII AND JAPAN VOL. II

NOV 16th-19th, 2016 OAHU

□ NOV 16th : PUNAHOU HIGH SCHOOL

17:00- Japanese Dance 『石橋 / SHAKKYO』

【Kabuki make-up, Dressing Kimono & Dancing】

□ NOV 17th : UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
ORVIS AUDITORIUM

19:30- 『Harmony of Japan』

□ NOV 19th : HIGASHI HONGWANJI
MISSION OF HAWAII

1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu

13:00- · Japanese Dance 『Usagi』

· Japanese Dance 『申酉 / SARUTORI』

Directed by Fujima Takamasa Institute of Japanese Dance and Culture

《 Contact us about performances in Oahu 》

TAKACHIKA FUJIMA E-mail : kaizuka222@gmail.com TEL : 011-81-80-5400-8274

HIGASHI HONGWANJI TEL : 808(531)1231 / 808(469)6577

<http://www.takamasafujima.com/>



Being part of The Big Picture

by Kevin Kawawata

On August 27 & 28, the 12th World Dobo Gathering took place at the Universal City Hilton Hotel and Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin. Some 350 Dobo followers from Japan, Brazil and North America, including Kevin and 12 others from Hawaii temples, joined the group to learn together and reflect upon the meaning of unity.



Ministers and members from the Hawaii District gathered at the Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin hondo for a souvenir photo.

It has been two years since I moved to Hawaii from Los Angeles. As a former member of the West Covina Buddhist Temple in California, attending the 12th Dobo Convention meant a lot to me. This was the first Dobo Convention I attended. It was great to see familiar faces after all this time—I felt like I had arrived home. I even saw people from the South America District and Japan, making this a diverse group.

The theme of the 12th Dobo Convention was “Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity.” The temples in the North America District have a diverse variety of members, while temples in Japan aren’t as diverse.

Although different, Buddhist temples have the same problem—the membership. We live in a diverse world—this diversity can change viewpoints and even a person’s loyalty. Diversity is like the two sides of a coin; it makes people open to new ideas, either attracting or repelling them from the ideas of Buddhism.

During the time I was at West Covina, I was noticing some changes in the membership throughout the years. West Covina has programs for youth members up to the high school age. As I was growing up, these groups were quite large in size—usually 10 to 20 members attending regularly. During my years in college, I saw these numbers drop due to the students moving on in their lives. In its place, new members—even families—joining our Sangha.

The temple’s ministers and members play a huge part in the membership size. The activities done by the temple

members speak for themselves. At West Covina, I recall having open discussions after services with other members, as well as study classes, making the concept of Buddhism open for anyone in a causal manner.

The temple also sponsored dances and other activities to bring in new members. As part of the East San Gabriel Japanese Community Center, the West Covina Buddhist Temple assists the community center, and in return, the community center sponsors the temple. Being part of a community helps keep the temple running.

Whenever I go to Japan, I visit my family’s temple in Mito City in Ibaraki Prefecture. It is different from overseas temples due to the fact it is a family-run temple. The activities are also vastly different. In Japan I see volunteers every now and then tending the temple property as if it was their own.

There is also a Fujinkai: a small group of ladies who help bring hospitality to the temple visitors and members. I haven’t seen much change in the temple membership, but it seems like the members treat it as a part of the community.

Going back to the Dobo Convention, our break-out session was mainly focused on how to keep members and attract new ones. That was when I noticed that the membership problem was not just ours.

The majority of my group was from Japan, so it was a bit of a surprise to hear that they were struggling with membership. In fact, one of them said that his temple was too far away from the community so that the temple was literally inaccessible.

After we shared ideas on how to increase membership, I think we came to the same conclusion—make the temples part of our communities, and membership will soon follow.

While my motive to attending the Dobo retreat was to visit the mainland for a while—including a side trip to Las Vegas!—there was more to it than just a visit. It was great to hear ideas of others, though I must admit I had fallen asleep during part of the lectures. I hope that our shared ideas are taken into effect, to help us keep Buddhism alive and well in Hawaii and beyond.



Break out sessions offered the opportunity to discuss membership challenges with delegates from the various other districts.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Honolulu, HI
 Permit No. 693

In this issue of WA...

- **Betsuin celebrates centennial** p.1
- **What's a Goenki, anyway?** p. 2
- **The Life of Shinran Shonin** p. 3
- **News on the Betsuin Wireless** p. 4
- **2017 Hawaii District calendar** p. 4
- **November movie: *Hana*** p. 4
- **Fujima dance performance** p. 5
- **Being part of the Big Picture** p. 6
- **Acknowledgments** p. 7
- **November shotsuki service** p. 7
- **Temple activities calendar** p. 8

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

11/5	Sat	10 am	750th Goenki/Centennial panel Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
11/5	Sat	5:30 pm	750th Goenki/Centennial banquet Ala Moana Hotel Garden Lanai Room
11/6	Sun	10 am	Shinran Shonin 750th memorial service Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
11/8	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/10	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
11/13	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service/ Sunday school
11/13	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
11/13	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class
11/15	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
11/19	Sat	1 pm	Fujima-ryū - Harmony of Japan, Vol. II Otani Center
11/20	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
11/20	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
11/22	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/22	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Hana</i> (2006)
11/27	Sun		Ho-on-ko at Palolo and Hilo temples No Sunday service at Betsuin
11/28	Mon	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

DECEMBER

12/4	Sun	10 am	HBC Bodhi Day service at Jodo Mission (No Sunday service at Betsuin)
12/8	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
12/11	Sun	10 am	Bodhi Day service/Sunday school
12/11	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
12/13	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
12/18	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service/ Sunday school
12/18	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
12/18	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class
12/20	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
12/24	Sat	9 am	Mochi pounding
12/25	Sun		No Sunday service at Betsuin
12/27	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
12/27	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Princess Mononoke</i> (1997)
12/28	Wed	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
12/30	Sat	9 am	Oosōji year-end temple cleaning & Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning
12/31	Sun	5:30 pm	Year-end service - <i>Joya-e</i> <i>Toshikoshi</i> soba after service
1/1	Mon	10 am	New Year's Day service - <i>Shūshō-e</i> <i>Ozōni</i> after service

Everyone is welcome to join in on sutra chanting held at 7 am daily (except on Sundays & the 28th day of the month) in the Betsuin main hall.