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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

February 2018
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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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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

The LIGHT to the World of Awakening

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

February 15 is observed in the Buddhist world as Nirvana Day. Nirvana Day is the day Shakyamuni Buddha passed away.

When we hear about the Buddha, we think Buddha was not like us, like a super human being, divine being. But we should not forget that he was the same as us; he was born as a human being and he died as a human being. Then what is different between Buddha and us? He found peace of mind and had eyes to see reality and truth. By having those qualities, he had a good and meaningful, profound life.

Our main goal with Buddhism is the same as Shakyamuni’s: to become a Buddha, which means becoming an awakened one and to become a person who has a settled peace of mind.

So it is important to remember Shakyamuni as our teacher. We walk on the path of the Buddha as teaching of Nembutsu. We listen to the Buddha’s teaching and reflect on our lives and open our eyes to the truth.

Shakyamuni Buddha died at the age of 80. He had been sharing his teaching with others for 45 years. When he realized that he would soon die, he left Rajagriha, where he was staying at that time and went back to his hometown of Kapila-vastu. This was his last journey. On the way to Kapila-vastu, he stayed at a place called Kushinagara, and received offerings of food from Chunda, a blacksmith. But there was a poisonous mushroom in the food. Only the Buddha got food poisoning. Buddha lay down under the Sala tree and it is said that his cause of death was given as old age and food poisoning.

Buddha knew that the cause of his sickness was the food that Chunda offered. He also knew that he would soon die. So before he died, he told his disciples, “Don’t accuse Chunda. His offering was from his pure mind and it was right conduct.”

He said, “Don’t look at only the results of the event.” His attitude for offering to the Buddha was a beautiful deed.

“Don’t accuse him,” was his last message to his attendant Ananda, a first cousin and one of his principal disciples, and his followers. He then passed away.

In the Buddha’s last sermon, he said, “Make the dharma your light! Rely upon it; do not depend upon any other teaching. Make a light of yourself. Rely upon yourself; do not depend upon anyone else.”

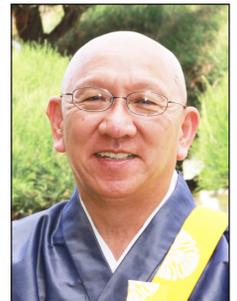
He also pointed out to Ananda that our world is constantly changing and not lasting—the essence of impermanence—so make efforts to practice the teaching of Buddha and gain your own salvation.

In his last message, the Buddha is telling us that we need two lights for our lives: one to illuminate to see the world of reality, truth and the Dharma, and one to illuminate to see our own selves.

When you walk outside on a dark night, you need a flashlight. Since our world is constantly changing and moving—we are, too—we cannot imagine what will happen in the next moment. We need to make a constant effort to listen to the Buddha’s teaching, which directs us to the world of awakening.

Our practice is hearing and calling Buddha’s name “Namu Amida Butsu.” Through this living of Nembutsu, we come up with what Buddha said in his last message.

I hope you will be able to join us to listen to more of the Buddha’s teaching at our Nirvana Day service at the Betsuin on Sunday, Feb. 18, starting at 10 am.



Rinban Ken Kawawata

Thank you in gassho,
Kenjun Kawawata

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ATTENTION MEMBERS! Please help us by attending the General Membership meeting on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 11:00 am at Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Otani Center at 1685 Alaneo St. At the meeting you'll have the opportunity to vote on proposed amendments to our charter and bylaws. A member quorum is needed to accomplish this.

What are the charter & bylaws?

The charter and bylaws are part of the governing documents of our Betsuin and provide the authority, instruction and guidelines for the board of directors and officers in the operations of the temple.

Why are we amending them?

We're updating the existing charter and bylaws to comply with current Hawaii State and federal laws and more efficiently address the Betsuin's operations. It's been a while since our last update and we believe that the new amended articles of incorporation and bylaws will serve as a more comprehensive operational guide for the board of directors and officers in our day-to-day operations.

What's more, through better organization and inclusion of a table of contents and descriptive paragraph headings, the documents are more user-friendly and easier to read. We believe that these amendments are in the best interest of both the temple and our current membership.

Can I review the documents?

You're welcome to review the proposed amended and restated articles of incorporation and bylaws at our office. Or you may request a copy of these drafts by contacting the temple office at (808) 531-9088.

Because the articles of incorporation and bylaws will serve as the guiding documents for the board of directors and officers, we urge you to participate in this important matter and make your vote count.



Year of the Dog Shinnenkai/New Year Party

明けましておめでとうございます！今年もよろしくお願いたします！

WHO: Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin members, families & friends

WHEN: Sunday, February 25 (~11:30 am)
Immediately following General Membership meeting

WHERE: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii - Betsuin
Otani Center, 1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu

COST: **FREE**...though donations are greatly appreciated!

MENU: Favorites from New Mui Kwai Chop Suey!

PRIZES: Everybody's a winner!

RSVP: Call 531-9088 (Let us know name, # adults, # children)

ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING:

Over the Hilltop Serenaders...Live on stage! Direct from Mililani!
Skit by **Betsuin Sunday School children**
Dharma Hawaiians - Betsuin ukulele band

Win
great Bingo
prizes!

Lucky Me!
& gift card
prizes!

Wan! Wan!

Win! Win!

Don't miss out on all the fun, food and fellowship!
Please be sure to join us!



Rev. Imai leads the discussion at the Hawaii District Dharma Gathering at Otani Center.

District launches new theme for next 3 years at dharma gathering

Our new “Joy of Living” theme through 2020 was introduced by Rev. Akinori Imai, former bishop of the Hawaii & North America districts, at our all-day Hawaii District Gathering at the Betsuin Jan. 20 with some 25 attendees.

“Controlling” was among the keywords in his lecture entitled, *Let Us Discover the Joy of Living*. Rev. Imai reminded us that we cannot control everything the way we want, sharing personal examples such as not being able to hit his drives 150 yards any more or get his first couch choice when furniture shopping with his wife.

The fact remains that reality is uncontrollable. In our daily lives, much as though we’d like to think otherwise, we do not have full control. Rev. Imai reminds us that all we can do is entrust ourselves in the power of the Buddha’s primal vow.

If the “Joy of Living” slogan has a familiar ring to it, well, it should! Honzan has been using it for more than 50 years now. A huge sign at the entrance to our denomination’s headquarters temple in Kyoto boldly greets visitors, proclaiming, 生まれた意義と生きる喜びを見つけよう, or *Let Us Discover the Significance of Birth and the Joy of Living*.

Influenza season isn’t over yet!

Even if you haven’t gotten your flu shot yet, it’s not too late! According to the Centers for Disease Control, this year’s flu season is the most widespread on record, with 12,000 hospitalized, and the rate is reportedly still increasing!

While the vaccine is not perfect, data shows it does help. Of the 37 children who died from flu this season, 85% did not get a flu shot. Protect your loved ones. Protect yourself! The life you save may be your own!

Feb. movie: heartwarming comedy *Pecoross’ Mother and Her Days*

Yuichi Okano (Ryo Iwamatsu) is a laid-back baby boomer manga artist born and raised in Nagasaki. His bald-head looks like a pecoross, a small onion. His mother, Mitsue (Harue Akagi) has dementia that began soon after her husband, Satoru, died 10 years before. Typical episodes of her daily life include sweetly sorrowful events such as asking her grandson Masaki (Kensuke Owada) to buy sake for his late grandfather, nearly getting run over while waiting at the parking lot for Yuichi to return or finding dirty underwear in tansu drawers. Yuichi hesitatingly leaves Mitsue at a care home.

As Japan’s population ages rapidly, nursing care and dementia are serious social issues today, and this film faces the reality of the challenges and is a heartwarming comedy at the same time.

Critically acclaimed as one of the best movies in Japan in 2013, awards include 35th Yokohama Film Festival Best Ten (#3), Best Director (Azuma Morisaki) and Best Photography; 2013 Kinema Junpo Best Ten (#1); Mainichi Film Awards Best Actress (Harue Akagi); 28th Takasaki Film Festival Best Work, Best Actress (Harue Akagi), Best Supporting Actress Award (Kiwako Harada); Movie Arts 2013 Movie Best Ten (#1); among others.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Feb. 27, 113 min. Color, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

ペコロスの母に会いに行く

長崎生まれの団塊世代、岡野ゆういち(岩松了)は、漫画を描いたり音楽活動をしたりと趣味にうつつを抜かし、仕事に身が入らないダメサラリーマン。小さいたまねぎ“ペコロス”に似たハゲ頭のゆういち は、今日もライブハウスでオリジナルソングを歌い上げて悦に入っている。そんなゆういちの母・みつえ(赤木春恵)の認知症が始まったのは、夫のさとるが亡くなった頃からだった。それから10年、ある時はさとるのために酒を買いに出たところを孫のまさき(大和田健介)に見つけられて連れ戻され、またある時はゆういちが帰ってくるのを駐車場で待ち続けて危うく轢かれそうになった。さらに、筆筒の引き出しから汚れた下着が大量に出てきたこともある。ケアマネージャーに勧められたゆういち は、悩みながらも、みつえを介護施設に預けることにする。そこは老人たちが皆で歌を合唱するような明るい雰囲気 のグループホームだった。

Pecoross’ Mother and Her Days

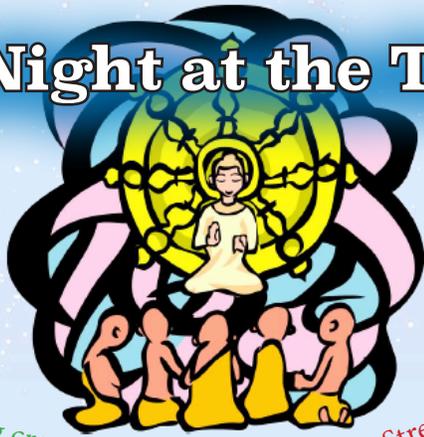


受賞:第35回ヨコハマ映画祭2013年日本映画ベストテン第3位、監督賞(森崎東)、撮影賞;2013年第87回キネマ旬報ベスト・テン日本映画ベスト・ワン;第68回毎日映画コンクール日本映画優秀賞、女優主演賞(赤木春恵);第28回高崎映画祭最優秀作品賞、最優秀主演女優賞(赤木春恵)、最優秀助演女優賞(原田貴和子);映画芸術2013年日本映画ベストテン&ワーストテン・ベストテン1位;その他。

公開:2013年、カラー、言語:日本語、字幕:英語、映時間:113分、2月27日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

HAWAII BUDDHIST COUNCIL
presents

Open Night at the Temples



Negative news
overload?

Running crazy?

Seeking quiet time?
Stressing out?

Press the pause button. Buddhism offers to bring you peace through compassion and wisdom. The seven denominations of the Hawaii Buddhist Council offer you 90-minute open houses in February, starting at 6 pm. Service, lecture and Q&A. No obligation, no reservation necessary. Stop by and discover the diversity of Buddhism so that you can discover your faith, and find that missing "something" to enjoy a more fulfilling life. Let's rest our smartphones and rediscover our community.

Thu	2/1	Nichiren Mission of Hawaii	33 Pulelehua Way, Hon.	96817	595-3517
Tue	2/6	Jodo Mission of Hawaii	1429 Makiki St., Hon.	96814	949-3995
Thu	2/8	Soto Mission of Hawaii	708 Nuuanu Ave., Hon.	96817	537-9409
Tue	2/13	Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii	1685 Alaneo St., Hon.	96817	531-9088
Thu	2/15	Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin	1727 Pali Hwy., Hon.	96813	536-7044
Tue	2/20	Liliha Shingonji Mission	1710 Liliha St., Hon.	96817	533-3929
Thu	2/22	Tendai Mission of Hawaii	23 Jack Lane, Hon.	96817	595-2556

Mahalo!

Thank you to all the Betsuin families and individuals who have already taken care of renewing their annual gojikai membership dues.

Timely submission of annual dues supports our temple activities such as our weekly Sunday services, study classes, community outreach programs and other services, and helps sustain them into the future.

For those who have not sent their \$75 annual membership dues yet, we would appreciate your continued support at your earliest convenience.

Payment of annual gojikai dues gives you all the benefits of membership, including the right to vote in temple matters that concern you at general membership meetings and also allows you to maintain a niche in our columbarium.

If you're not a member yet, please consider joining. Your membership will help us continue our mission to serve the local Hawaii community as we have for the past century!

If you have questions about dues or membership, please feel free to call the temple office at 531-9088.

SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR FEBRUARY

Our monthly shōtsuki service in remembrance of temple family members who passed away in the month of February of a previous year will be held this month on **Sunday, February 4.**

The following list includes temple members whose deaths occurred this month during the past 50 years.

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

Edward Abe	Kumaki Hisano	Thomas Karu Kono	Ethel Hisako Ogata	Isami Tsukamoto
Jue Anami	Mitsue Horita	Masako Kudo	Hiroharu Ohara	Clyde T. Uchida
Violet Kikuko Doi	Florence Tomoe Ikari	Roy Yoshio Kurihara	Toyono Oi	Jack Ujimori
Tadao Fuchikami	Fumio Ikuta	Kimiko Manabe	Carol Masako Otani	Sadako Ujimori
James M. Fujiwara	Betty Mitsuno Imura	Kanji Mashima	Masao Sakaida	Ethel H. Umemoto
Bun Fukunaga	Arthur T. Inabata	Harriet Harue Matsuo	James Sakamoto	Shigeko Uyehara
George Masato Gono	Shigeko Ishibashi	Clara Y. Minamishin	Vivian H. Sakamoto	Masayuki Uyemura
Doris Yaeko Goto	Shigeru "Jack" Ishibashi	Yakuro Miyamoto	Miles Y. Shigemura	Torao Uyeno
Richard Isami Hanai	Kenneth M. Ishida	Elliott S. Miyazono	Shigeko Shimabuku	Yoshiaki Uyeno
Katsuki Hanazono	Thomas Tatsuo Ishida	Floyd Iwao Muraoka	Mary M. Shinbara	Masatoshi Watanabe
Clara Masako Hatori	Robert H. Ishimatsu	Suma Muratsuchi	Oshi Shinsato	Sadie S. Yamada
Hitoshi Hayase	Sumio Ito	Ryoichi Nakahara	Kimiko Taketa	Noboru Yamakawa
James Kiyoshi Hayase	Yaeno Iwanaga	Yoshiko Nakahara	Takeo Takeuchi	Hirumu Yamamoto
Kame Higa	Hatsue Kaneshiro	Katherine Nakamura	Ralph M, Tanijo	Lilian Michiko Yoneda
Kiyoko Higa	Kishun Kaneshiro	Shigeko Nishizawa	Kiyoko Tomita	Helen H. Yonehara
Masae Higa	Clarence I. Kawamoto	Thomas T. Nitta	James M. Tsuchida	Matsue Yonekura
Ted Teiyei Higa	David Hisashi Kobata	Yoshiko Oda	Henry K. Tsuchiyama	Robert M. Yoshida
Dick Michio Higuchi	Tatsuo Kobata			Violet H. Yoshida



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2/4	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school
2/4	Sun	12pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese 無量寿経 日本語仏教講座 現代語で仏教を聞こう!
2/5	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
2/8	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
2/10	Sat	12 pm	Oahu MAP class
2/11	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
2/13	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
2/13	Tue	6 pm	HBC Open Night at Betsuin
2/18	Sun	10 am	Nirvana Day service
2/18	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
2/19	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
2/20	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
2/25	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
2/25	Sun	11 am	General membership meeting Shinnenkai/New Year party immediately following at Otani Center
2/27	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
2/27	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Pecoross' Mother & Her Days ペコロスの母に会いに行く (2013)
2/28	Wed	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

MARCH

3/4	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school
3/4	Sun	12pm	Omigaki polishing of altar decorations
3/5	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
3/8	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
3/11	Sun	10 am	Temple picnic at Kapiolani Park (no service at Betsuin)
3/13	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
3/18	Sun	10 am	Ohigan service/Sunday school
3/18	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
3/20	Tue	10 am	Ministers' training (through 3/22)
3/20	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
3/23	Fri	7 pm	Public lecture Dr. Michael Conway, Otani University
3/24	Sat	10 am	Temple presidents' meeting Higashi Honganji Hawaii District
3/25	Sun	10 am	Rennyō Shōnin memorial service
3/26	Mon		Hawaii District Fukushima project (though 4/2)
3/27	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
3/27	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Land of Hope 希望の国 Fukuhara Conference Room
3/28	Wed	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

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