

和

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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

March 2018

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

What I Did On My Fall Vacation

Marian Tsuji

As a lay speaker at our Jan. 28 Sunday service, Betsuin board member Marian Tsuji talked about her Hoonko Hoshidan experience in Kyoto. This is a transcript of her remarks.



Good morning and Namu Amida Butsu. I was very excited and honored to be invited to attend the 2017 Hoonko Hoshidan trip to Honzan. I didn't really know what to expect, but figured it was a trip to the main temple in Kyoto (always breathtaking), in the fall (a bonus), and an opportunity to learn something I knew nothing about. Most of all, I was looking forward to slowing down, and getting some time to think.

I must've really been attracting the vibrations for slowing down, because at the airport I picked up this book, *Thank You for Being Late*, by Thomas Friedman. Part I is titled "Reflecting."

The beginning of the book really put in context exactly how I've been feeling: rushed; can't keep up; hamster on a wheel. I can never catch my breath. The book describes how the pace of change has accelerated.

In less than 40 years we went from mainframes to desktops to laptops to smartphones—each generation got easier and more natural for people to use than the one before. The power and speed of computing roughly doubles every two years.

To illustrate: There is a legend about the man who invented chess. The king was so taken by the man's invention that he offered him any reward. The man asked for enough rice to feed his family. The king asked, how much? The man asked the king to put one grain of rice on the first square of the chessboard, two on the second, four on the next with each subsequent square receiving 2x as many grains as the previous one. The king agreed without realizing that 63 instances of doubling yields something like 18 quintillion grains of rice.

So the change in technology is happening quicker and more broadly than ever before. Are we able to keep up? Can we adapt at the same rate of change?

We're not keeping up. Our social institutions are falling behind. On a personal level, I've got email, voicemail, texting, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. If I don't stay on top of it all, it just collects and I feel overwhelmed. So I'm afraid to stop. Reading this book was an affirmation. It's not just me... it's the world that's spinning faster.

So you can imagine: I was really looking forward to getting on the plane and going to the temple and disconnecting, even if only for a few days. It was the pause for reflection that I needed.

Our spiritual journey was called the HO-ON-KO Hoshidan Tour. It included a memorial service for Shinran Shonin, held on November 28, the date of Shinran's passing.

My dad tells me that the service is held in the fall so that we can all enjoy the fall foliage. Hoonko is also celebrated January 9-16 when using the old Japanese lunar calendar, as Nishi Hongwanji does.

HO = repay; respond to

ON = debt of gratitude

KO = lecture; gathering

So Hoonko is a gathering, and it included many people from temples all over Japan. We were there to take part in the services and lectures, and for the fellowship.

(cont'd on p. 2)

Hoonko Hoshidan (cont'd from p. 1)

I wasn't sure what to expect, especially since the schedules we received ahead of the trip had us waking up and cleaning our assigned areas at 5:20 every morning. The day ended with a 10:00 pm lights out.

- Would I be able to spend that much time with the Hawaii group? I don't spend that much time with *anyone* on a daily basis...
- Would I be able to stand the cold? There's no heat in the open main temple and I was told the dorms would be equally cold. I hate the cold.
- How long would I be able to sit in the temple with my legs folded under me?
- Wouldn't I be hungry? The schedule had only three temple meals per day.
- Will I have to bathe in the traditional communal bathing style? Ugh! Naked in public!
- What was I doing here?

The angst I had was peeled away layer by layer, starting with our group meeting at the airport. We were in total, nine, from the Betsuin, Kaneohe, Palolo and Hilo temples, including Rev. Fujimori and Rev. Kita. Everyone was kind, thoughtful, fun and easy to get along with. And I met the nicest minister from Otani University at the bath that evening, so the communal bathing became a social. She and I would meet throughout the retreat and even off site at a Zen temple.

So what was our day like? We did start at 5:20 in the morning with gentle chimes and a soft wake-up call through the speaker system. The older women from Japan (we were 14 in our room) in their 80s helped us fold up our futons and straighten out the room. We were no match for their speed and strength in managing the futons. They couldn't speak English, and we could barely speak Japanese, but we had such fun trying to understand each other and communicate.

We went to morning service at 6:30, followed by breakfast. The rest



Chanting ministers sway back and forth and from side to side during the special Hoonko memorial service commemorating Shinran Shonin's death on Nov. 28 nearly 800 years ago. The style of chanting is said to echo the image of Shinran, who continued to offer fervent prayers on a rocking boat in rough waters when he was exiled to Echigo province.

of the day was a combination of lecture, a clean up project or, on the 28th, the special Hoonko service. This special service was a privilege to see. We were fortunate enough to be able to sit up front next to the chanting ministers. Imagine: thousands of people kneeling next to each other in this hall. At the front were about 60 chanting ministers who were not only selected for their vocals, but also for their ability to sway. These ministers swayed in unison to the chants—and to see them all move together as one—it was better than watching the Rockettes at Radio City!

I learned so much. But what were my biggest lessons?

1. I don't know anything.

I was exposed to so much information, so many new concepts. There is so much truth to the old saying that "you don't know what you don't know." It was a great reminder that we really need to listen, truly listen, and question, and discuss with each other, for better understanding.

2. Fellowship is important.

It is important to be around people who are on a like-minded quest to be able to develop this deeper understanding. Our discussions during lecture and sidebar talks during breaks were where I was able to learn more or become more confused.

At the end of the retreat, a group of us went to Ryoanji Temple, the one with the famous Zen garden. This garden has 15 rocks. No matter where you stand, you can never see all 15 rocks. What a reminder that we can never see the whole picture, so it's important to learn others' perspectives.

3. Pause.

We all have busy lives: jobs that demand our attention; family; volunteer commitments. Sometimes we just go from day to day, or week to week, just barely keeping up. Add on top of that the acceleration of change in the world and the added demands that come with it. It's OK to push the pause button every once in a while.

We need to pause and reflect and understand so that we can rethink our assumptions. Sometimes we need to make adjustments to come back and reconnect to our core beliefs.

Being a part of the Hoonko tour and learning about the life of Shinran Shonin, Original Vow and Basic Desire, helped me reset my compass.

In closing, I would like to thank Rinban Kawawata for giving me this opportunity, and everyone who made it possible, and to our great escorts, Fujimori-sensei and Kita-sensei, who really made sure we had a great experience.

Namu Amida Butsu.

TRADE WIND

HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN / KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI / HILO HIGASHI HONGWANJI
PALOLO HONGWANJI / WAIMEA HIGASHI HONGWANJI

WINTER 2018

LET US DISCOVER THE JOY OF LIVING

The 2018 District theme is "Let Us Discover the Joy of Living." When I heard the theme, I thought, what is the joy of living for me? What is the joy of living for you? Is it eating delicious food, traveling, music or, coming to the temple? You can list many things.

I think playing sports is my joy of living. When I was a high school and university student, I played rugby. I practiced and played rugby six times a week. I preferred playing rugby to studying. But then I became injured in a traffic accident, and I had to stay in the hospital for three months. I had two operations on my leg. I had three broken bones and one compound fracture. The pain was very terrible. Then, my physical strength began to decline. My doctor told me there was possibility that I would be unable to walk as usual. I had a very difficult time. I thought I had wasted so much time practicing rugby before my accident. I returned to playing rugby with the support of teammates. But I know the fear of loss, and I know what it is like to have a little disability.

In our lives, we struggle to be rich and have a good position. I think if I became rich and had a good position I would fear losing them.

Shakyamuni relinquished his money and his position. But we desire the things that Shakyamuni left behind. However, we cannot relinquish everything as Shakyamuni did. What should we do? I think becoming rich and having a good position are results. We need to focus on the process -- not only the results. Without the process, the result of living might be death. So together with you, I would like to focus on the process and then discover the joy of living through the Dharma.

Let us begin the journey!

— Rev. Hidesato Kita

TRADE WIND

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SCROLL OF AMIDA BUDDHA IN A FRAME

A beautiful, high-quality scroll of Amida Buddha is now available through the Higashi Honganji USA Headquarters of Hawaii. The scroll comes in a wooden frame and can be placed inside a family altar (onaibutsu), hung on a wall with the included hook, or placed on a table on the wooden stand.

Amida is the Buddha of Pure Land Buddhism, and ultimately represents the profound wish that each of us appreciates every moment of our lives. With this



appreciative attitude, we can live our lives in the most dynamic and creative way, regardless of whether we are experiencing happiness or sorrow.

The image of Amida Buddha, also known as Amida Tathāgata, is the focus of our reverence. The image depicts the Buddha standing, with right hand held up and left hand down. This posture symbolizes the Buddha constantly working to reach everyone.

The image represents the Buddha's wisdom and compassion ever present, working to liberate us from the suffering caused by our own egocentric way of living. The halo behind the Buddha is meant to show that those attributes are like a light that illuminates all beings in every corner of the world.

The word, Amida, comes from *amitābha* (boundless light) and *amitāyus* (limitless life), which are words from the ancient language of Sanskrit. "Boundless light" signifies the Buddha's wisdom and the "limitless life," the Buddha's compassion. The word, Tathāgata, is also of Sanskrit origin and one of its meanings is "the truth working toward us."

Amida Buddha is the embodiment of the Buddha's wisdom and compassion which works tirelessly to liberate each one of us regardless of what kind of person we are.

\$100.00 donation per set — Please direct inquiries to Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Office or your temple.

ACTIVITIES

REPORTS

Hoonko Hoshidan Tour November 24-30, 2017



Seven tour members and two ministers represented the Hawaii District in attending the annual Hoonko memorial service for Shinran Shonin at the Honzan in Kyoto. People come from all over Japan for this very special chanting called a Bandobushi. The tour group also visited Shorenin and Otani Sobyō.

Joint Dharma Gathering January 20-21, 2018



For the Joint Dharma Gathering we welcomed Rev. Akinori Imai. His lecture on our theme, "Let Us Discover the Joy of Living," was a meaningful topic for all who attended.

FUTURE PLANS

Rainbow Ekiden March 11, 2018, 8 am (10 am potluck) Kapiolani Park

Our two teams from the Hawaii District and Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin) will compete at the Rainbow Ekiden. Members will cheer for us and will have a potluck picnic after. Please come for the fun! Look for us near the tennis courts across from the aquarium.

Public Seminar March 23, 2018, 7 pm Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

We have invited Dr. Michael Conway to be our speaker at this special event. The topic will be History in the Buddha's Light: Reading a Komyō Honzon Scroll. Please join us and listen to Dr. Conway's insights. If you have questions, contact your local temple or Hawaii District Office.

Fukushima Recovery Project March 26, 2018

Four university students and two children from Fukushima will share their experiences and thoughts at a welcome reception immediately after their arrival in Hawaii. Please help us show our Aloha Spirit at the Betsuin's Otani Center on Monday, March 26, at 10 am.

Joint Buddhist Seminar with Honpa Hongwanji April 13 - 14, 2018 Buddhist Study Center (1436 University Ave.)

Dr. Nobuo Haneda of Maida Center in Berkeley will talk about Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran: Buddhism as the Teaching of Self-Examination. This very interesting and informative seminar topic begins on Friday from 6 pm-8:30 pm and continues all day Saturday starting at 9 am. The \$20 fee includes meals and refreshments. If you have any questions, please contact the Buddhist Study Center or Hawaii District Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year (7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017)

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
General Account	\$51,337.57	\$25,274.89	\$26,062.68
Shuso Shinran Shonin 750th Goenki Fund	\$36,304.64	\$31,056.85	\$5,247.79
Hoonko/YBA Hoshidan Fund	\$9,387.86	\$0.00	\$9,387.86
World Dobo Convention Fund	\$16,983.46	\$590.00	\$16,393.46
Fukushima Recovery Project Fund	\$33,955.88	\$15,489.74	\$18,466.14
Scholarship Fund	\$5,669.45	\$2,000.00	\$3,669.45
Emergency Fund	\$12,013.83	\$0.00	\$12,013.83



Temple volunteers make sure the altar floral vases and other items sparkle and shine.

Dates to mark on your calendars

March is a busy month with all of our regular activities but here are a few special dates to point out for you to make sure they get on your calendar schedule.

Omigaki: We will be polishing our altar decorations in preparation for Ohigan observances at 12 noon on Sun., March 4. It's easy, fun and a great opportunity to meet others.

Picnic: We're going to be at Kapiolani Park on Sun., March 11 at 8 am to cheer on our young ministers and temple members participating in the Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden relay race. You may join us at 10 am with your *goza* or blanket to stretch out, relax and enjoy a cozy potluck picnic. Look for us by the tennis courts across from the Honolulu Aquarium. No Betsuin service on this March 11 Sunday.

Ohigan service: The advent of spring gives us an opportunity to renew our efforts to strengthen our commitment to the Buddhist life.

Former Betsuin minister Rev. Hosen Fukuhara is guest speaker at our March 18 Ohigan service starting at 10 am. After the service, we adjourn to Otani Center and enjoy a light lunch, along with some nostalgic *botamochi*—just like Grandma used to make—for dessert.

Public lecture: Dr. Michael Conway returns to Hawaii to present a public lecture on March 23, starting at 7 pm, intriguingly entitled *History in the Buddha's Light: Reading a Komyo Honzon Scroll*.

Fukushima Youth Project: Six young people who were victims of the Tohoku triple disaster in March 2011 will be spending a week in Hawaii for R&R. We can use your *kokua* with donations of cash and nonperishable foodstuffs for use while they're here.

Upon arrival on Monday morning on March 26, they will attend a short service and then have lunch at Otani Center. Please help welcome them and join us for lunch at about 11 am as they share their experiences and thoughts with us.

Bon dance: While it's not until summertime, we'd like to give you a heads up on the dates of our Betsuin bon dance, Fri. & Sat., July 20 & 21, and **not** July 13 & 14, as shown in our 2018 Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District wall calendar.

If you'd like more details about any of the events listed, feel free to call the office at 531-9088 or email us at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.

Fictional Land of Hope depicts possible future real-life scenario

A nuclear power plant accident occurs in the year 20XX due to a major earthquake off the east coast of the fictional Nagashima (a combination of Nagasaki + Hiroshima + Fukushima?) prefecture. The area within a 20 km radius from the nuclear power plant is designated as a warning area.

Dairy farmer Yasuhiko Ono (Isao Natsuyagi), his dementia-afflicted wife, Chieko (Naoko Otani) and their family are allowed to stay in the area, but the Suzuki family, husband Ken (Denden), his wife, Meiko (Mariko Tsutsui) and son Mitsuru (Yutaka Shimizu) across the road are forced to take refuge. Remembering the government's response at the time of the nuclear accident at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March of 2011, Yasuhiko evacuates his son, Yoichi (Jun Murakami) and his wife, Izumi (Megumi Kagurazaka).

Meanwhile the situation at the nuclear power plant is getting worse from moment to moment until...

This 2012 film directed by Sion Sono won him the NETPAC Director's Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, while Isao Natsuyagi was named Best Actor at the 2013 Mainichi Film Awards for his tender acting performance in the film.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Mar. 27, 134 min. Color, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

希望の国 (きぼうのくに)

2012年、日本の長島県(長崎+広島+福島県かな?)の東方沖で起こった大地震により、原子力発電所が事故を起こし、原発から半径20km圏内が警戒区域に指定された。酪農家の小野泰彦一家の家は区域から外れたが、道路を隔てた鈴木家は強制的に避難させられる。かつての東日本大震災における原発事故時の政府の対応を思い出し、康彦は息子夫婦を避難させた。原発の状況が刻々と悪化していく中、ついに小野家を含む地域も



避難区域に指定される。

受賞: 第67回毎日映画コンクール日本映画優秀賞、男優主演賞: 夏八木勲、2012トロント国際映画祭NETPAC監督賞: 園子温。

監督: 園子温、小野泰彦: 夏八木勲、小野智恵子: 大谷直子、小野洋一: 村上淳、小野いずみ: 神楽坂恵、鈴木健: でんでん、鈴木めい子: 筒井真理子、鈴木ミツル: 清水優、ヨコ: 梶原ひかり、公開: 2012年、カラー、言語: 日本語、字幕: 英語、映時間: 134分、3月27日(火)午後6:30

SHINSHU CENTER OF AMERICA (HIGASHI HONGANJI)
PUBLIC SEMINAR ON SHIN BUDDHISM



***History in the Buddha's Light:
Reading a Kōmyō Honzon Scroll***

Rev. Dr. Michael Conway
Lecturer, Otani University, Japan

Friday, March 23, 2018, 7:00 pm

Free and Open to the Public

No background in Buddhism is required.

The Seminar will be followed by a Q&A.

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

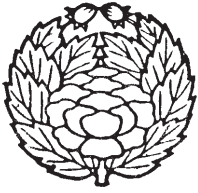
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817



Rev. Dr. Michael Conway

Rev. Dr. Conway was born in Chicago in 1976. He graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in History in 1997. Soon after, he started attending the Buddhist Temple of Chicago in 1998. In 2003, he entered Otani University's Graduate School in the Shin Buddhist Studies Major. There, he served as Departmental Assistant in Otani University's Department for Shin Buddhist Studies from 2009 to 2011. He completed his Ph.D. in Shin Buddhist Studies in 2011. He served as the Managing Editor of *The Eastern Buddhist* academic journal from 2011 to 2015. He has been a Full Time Lecturer at Otani University since 2015. Rev. Dr. Conway is also an ordained minister of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji).

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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MARCH

3/4	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school
3/4	Sun	12pm	Omigaki polishing of altar decorations
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)
3/12	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class
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	11 am	Hawaii District Fukushima project (though 4/2)
3/27	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
3/27	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Land of Hope</i> 希望の国 Fukuhara Conference Room
3/28	Wed	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

APRIL

4/1	Sun	9 am	HBC Buddha Day service @ Soto Mission (No service at Betsuin)
4/8	Sun	10 am	Hanamatsuri service @ Betsuin
4/10	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
4/12	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
4/13	Fri	6 pm	Joint Higashi-Honpa seminar Pt 1 led by Dr. Nobuo Haneda Buddhist Study Center next to UH-Manoa
4/14	Sat	9 am	Joint Higashi-Honpa seminar Pt 2-5 (continues at BSC all day, including lunch)
4/15	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
4/15	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
4/16	Mon	10 am	Betsuin study class with Dr. Haneda
4/17	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
4/22	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki service/Sunday school
4/22	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class Led by Jeanne Kawawata @ Otani Center
4/24	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
4/24	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Kikujiro</i> 菊次郎の夏
4/28	Sat	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
4/29	Sun	10 am	Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning Kakaako Waterfront Park Short service and picnic to follow

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.