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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

5
May 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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Editor: Ken Saiki

A REMEMBRANCE FOR MOTHER’S DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

In May we celebrate Mother’s Day and also observe Memorial Day. Both occasions are very important and give us a chance to think about our individual lives.

Mother’s Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew’s Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. So Mother’s Day, celebrated today in the U.S. on the second Sunday in May, actually began with a memorial service.

Memorial Day has been traced by some accounts back to June 3, 1861 in Warren, Virginia, where the first grave of a Civil War soldier was decorated with flowers. After World War I, the Decoration Day custom expanded from honoring soldiers who died in the Civil War to all Americans who died fighting in any war.

Today, Memorial Day has become a national holiday observed on the last Monday in May, when many people visit cemeteries and memorials to pay respects to their beloved ones who have passed away.

In that sense, it is similar to Obon and Ohigan, when people in Japan honor all ancestors and observe services and have the opportunity to listen to the Buddha Dharma. We should make Memorial Day an occasion for listening to the Buddha’s teachings in Hawaii too.

The Memorial Day weekend, many people go to the cemetery or to the temple. A cemetery is a good place to do meditation as it’s very quiet, wide open and peaceful. Cemeteries in Hawaii are very beautiful places. At the gravesite, you remember your beloved ones, express your gratitude and think about your life. This is what meditation is.

Buddhist temples had their beginning from the gravesite of Shakyamuni Buddha. When Shakyamuni Buddha died, his disciples and followers got together to hold a funeral service and cremation. After dividing the Buddha’s ashes into four, they took them to where the sangha gathered. They built a small tower called a stupa and put Buddha’s ashes in it.

Whenever they had gatherings or remembrances, they clustered around this small stupa, which eventually became the temple, a place to listen and study the Buddha Dharma. That’s how Buddha’s gravesite became the origin of the Buddhist temple. Our Higashi Hongwanji headquarters was started from Shinran Shonin’s gravesite, too.

For Buddhists, gravesites and cemeteries are not just a place to bury our loved ones. Going to the cemetery and coming to the temple have the same meaning, which is to listen to the Buddha Dharma for our meaningful and peaceful lives. We can listen and receive many teachings through people who died before us.

My mother died in 1976. However, her teachings and discipline are still with me. I still remember her delicious meals. When I cook something, I try to make

(cont’d on p. 2)



Rinban Ken Kawawata

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin)

| | | |
|--------|-------|---------------------------------|
| May 6 | 10 am | Shotsuki Memorial Service |
| May 13 | 10 am | Mother’s Day Family Service |
| May 20 | 10 am | Shinran Shonin Birthday Service |
| May 27 | 10 am | All Wars Memorial Service |

MOTHER'S DAY & MEMORIAL DAY (cont'd from p. 1)

it to close to my mother's taste. My tongue still remembers her taste, which means her life exists in my own being.

As a tribute to Mother's Day and Memorial Day, I'd like to share with you a poem by Rev. Haya Akegarasu, expressing his gratitude and love for his mother. Rev. Akegarasu (1877-1954) was head of administration of Higashi Honganji and a major inspiration to the formation of the Dobokai movement.

From his poem *My Mother*, I can see we had similar experiences and feelings about our mothers. I truly appreciate my mother's patience, understanding and love for me and my siblings.

On the occasion of Mothers Day and Memorial Day this year, please express our thanks to mothers everywhere and all those who came before us. Through your remembrance, please hear the teaching of Buddha and Shinran Shonin with the Nembutsu.

My Mother

by Rev. Haya Akegarasu

*Though I may try for the rest of my life to praise my mother's virtues,
I haven't enough time to express them all.*

*No one except my mother loved me absolutely;
And no one except myself, loved my mother in the same way.*

*Like a blind person, my mother loved me blindly.
My mother, my dear mother.*

*My mother's virtue was simply this:
To love her husband and her child
More than anything else.*

*Though there are billions of people and billions of mothers,
My own mother is undoubtedly the best.*

*One day I asked my mother,
"What would you do if I gave you a million dollars?"
She replied, "I would give it right back to you."*

*After my mother passed away,
I searched and searched to find her;
and finally I found her,
I found her in my own being.*

*Only my mother trusted me completely,
beyond judgments of good and bad.
How I long for her!*

*I have tasted delicious foods from around the world,
But for me, the only food truly delicious
are the meals my mother prepared for me.*

*Let my life shine out!
For it was nurtured with the blood and tears
of my mother as its nourishment.*

*Even though there are many other children
who love their mothers as much as I love mine;
there can be no other mother who loves their children
as much as my mother loves me.*

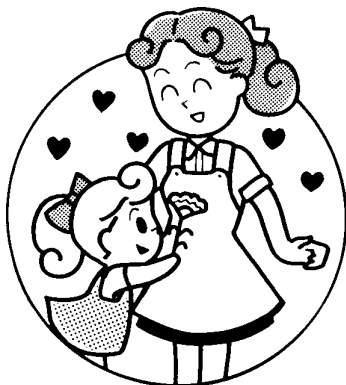
—Translation by Rev. Gyoko Saito

Mother's Day Family Service

Sunday, May 13, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Message : Mrs. Fay Uyema



母の日家族礼拝

2018年5月13日

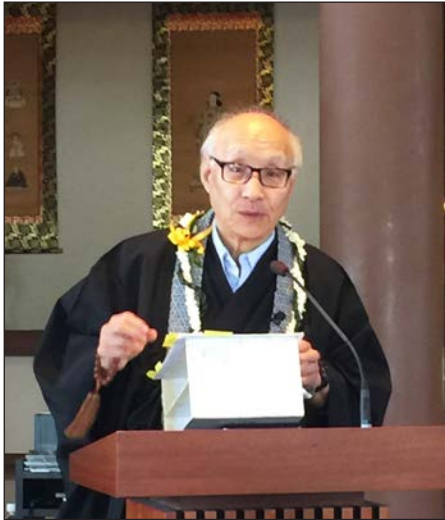
午前10時

メッセージ：上間 フェイ 氏

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Dr. Haneda delivers the dharma message at the Betsuin Sunday service on April 15.

Joint Higashi-Nishi Hongwanji seminar facilitated by Dr. Haneda

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night could stay Dr. Nobuo Haneda from the swift completion of his appointed rounds.

Taking a page out of the U.S. Postal Service manual, Dr. Haneda, director of the Maida Center of Buddhism in Berkeley, dutifully completed his five-part joint Buddhist seminar on one of the rainiest weekends ever in Hawaii.

The seminar, held Friday evening on Apr. 13 and all day Saturday, was sponsored by Higashi and Honpa Hongwanji at the Buddhist Study Center on University Ave.

Then on Sunday, Dr. Haneda was invited to deliver the dharma message at the Betsuin at its regular Sunday service. To the delight of the several members in attendance whose first language is Japanese, Dr. Haneda’s talk was presented first in English, then in Japanese, with some added anecdotes the second time around.

Though the rain might have hampered some of his anticipated weekend leisure-time activities, Dr. Haneda was able to enjoy fellowship with Betsuin members and have his favorite Hawaiian food specialties: ahi poke and boiled peanuts!

Betsuin supports recovery project for Fukushima young people

Mahalo to all who came to the March 26 Otani Center welcoming of the six Fukushima youths in Hawaii for a week’s rest and recuperation. Thanks also to those who made food and cash donations.

Four nursing students and two elementary-age brothers split their stay between the Leeward and Windward coasts with visits to places such as the Waianae Comprehensive Health Center, sightseeing spots and beaches. Activity details will be chronicled in a forthcoming issue of the Hawaii District newsletter.

Before they returned to Japan, the four nursing students—Ayami Asagi, Shiori Azuma, Minon Endo and Toshimi Endo—described their 3/11 experiences to the HBC Buddha Day service attendees at Soto Mission.

Gentlemen, start your ovens!

As many of you are aware, as a salute to moms everywhere, it’s a Betsuin tradition for the temple men to prepare the meal after our Mother’s Day family service.

So all you men, here’s a reminder: Mother’s Day is May 13 so start thinking of what you plan to bring. It might be a good idea to huddle with the other guys before then so that not everyone is preparing 9”x13” casserole dishes of baked school-style spaghetti.

Also, if you plan to purchase your contribution to the buffet table, let’s not all show up with identical orders of Pizza Hut cheese pizzas with anchovies.

Thank you for your cooperation! Don’t forget that the kitchen needs to be cleaned up afterwards, too!

Go for Broke!, a memorial to the famed 442nd RCT, is May movie

Who among us old-timer locals doesn’t vividly remember the *Go for Broke!* premiere at the Waikiki Theatre in 1951? This 9-year-old was in awe as the crisscrossing searchlight beams lit up the sky and thousands came to gawk at star Van Johnson, who

played the leading role as the bigoted Lt. Michael Grayson, and kotonk Henry Nakamura, who provided comic relief as the hapless Pvt. Tommy Kamakura.

A story of the AJA 442nd Regimental Combat Team that climaxes with the rescue of the “Lost Battalion,” the film was a popular and critical success, combining comedy, pathos and battle action. *Go for Broke!* set a precedent in featuring AJAs as the good guys. Most roles were, in fact, played by Nisei 442nd veterans.

OK, so it’s a black-and-white film. And there aren’t any subtitles to help you with words like “bakatara” or pidgin inside jokes. But if you haven’t seen the movie in the last 60+ years or missed it the first time around, here’s your chance to see why it was nominated for Best Screenplay at the 1951 Academy Awards. After the movie we can discuss deep topics



such as war, racial conflict, forced internment and where the word “kotonk” originated!

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 22, 90 min. Monochrome. Audio: English. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

Tanjo-e Service

In celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin

Hatsumairi Ceremony

Held in conjunction with Tanjo-e Service

Sunday May 20, 2018 10:00 am

English Message : Rev. Koen Kikuchi



親鸞聖人誕生会 新生児初参り法要

2018年5月20日 午前10時

日本語法話：河和田賢淳 輪番

A ceremony for infants and children up to 6 years of age who shall be presented initially before the Buddha. It signifies the foundation towards a spiritual life. Please fill out the application form and send back to the temple office.

初参りは、新しいいのちの誕生を祝う儀式です。6才までのお子さんを受け付け致します。お早めにお寺まで申し込んでください。



Child's Name

Birthday

Age

Sex M F

Parent's Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817
Telephone (808) 531-9088

What's in a



It used to be that parents of girls born in May would often give the name “May” to their newborn. Today you won’t find too many girls named May, as that kind of naming convention isn’t very common any more. Now it seems most little girls are Emma, Madison, Mia, Riley or Chloe. Or if they’re boys, let me guess. Are you Noah, Liam, Ethan, Logan or Luke?

Most Japanese probably can tell you that May in the old lunar calendar was called Satsuki (五月). Girls and boys born during the 5th month would sometimes be given that poetic name. Similarly, the pre-Meiji era name for the third month was Yayoi (弥生), so it was a common name given to girls born in March.

Perhaps not as universally known is that the feminine names Fumiko, Yōko and Nagako are also derived from ancient names of months. July was formerly known as 文月, *Fumizuki*, or “book month,” August was 葉月, *Hazuki*, or “leaf month” and September was 長月, *Nagatsuki*, or “long month.”

In case you’re wondering how Hazuki is related to Yōko, well, “yō” is the on-yomi reading of “ha,” as in 紅葉, *kōyō*, or “autumn (leaf) colors.”



The Okakura daughters, Satsuki & Yayoi in front and Nagako Yōko & Fumiko in back, were named after their birth months. TBS photo

And if the names Satsuki, Yayoi, Fumiko, Yōko and Nagako sound familiar as a group, you might be recalling the long-running drama series, *Wataru Seken wa Oni Bakari*, or *Making It Through* on KIKU-TV.

Satsuki, played by Izumi Pinko, was the Koraku restaurant proprietress constantly hassled by her mother-in-law. Yayoi was her eldest sister, a stay-at-home wife until her husband retired and started being at home all the time. Fumiko was the travel agent, Yōko, the designer and Nagako, the translator married to Dr. Honma. All of the Okakura daughters had birthdays in their namesake months.

In the years just prior to World War II—the early Showa era—the most popular girls’ names in Japan were Kazuko, Sachiko, Setsuko, Hiroko and Hisako. The “-ko” ending has since diminished in popularity and girls today are more likely to have names like Hana, Himari, Akari, Ichika and Sara. An interesting trend among some young women with older-sounding names is to change the spelling in romaji. An old-fashioned Yoko, for example, can become a stylish Yoco.

Popular in Japan is giving children a “kirakira name” (キラキラネーム), or an unconventional name that “glitters” and stands out. A single kanji can have multiple meanings and pronunciations, so when it is paired with another kanji, you could end up with dozens of different glittery combinations.

For example, one of the four young femaie nursing students who visited us last month as part of the Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Fukushima Children’s Recovery Project was named 美音 (みのん) or Minon. Written in kanji, 美音, or *utsukushi*

oto, means “beautiful sound” and isn’t an especially unusual name. The combination, however, can be read in various other ways—perhaps the most common being Mine—but also Mio, Mion, Minon, Mito, Mioto, Minori, Miune, Biune and more. In fact, Japanese baby names are said to have more variety than any other language. These variations are similar to how the name Kira in the U.S. is also sometimes seen as Kyra, Keira, Kiera, Keera, Kyras, Chyras, etc.

Back to our friend Minon (美音), if her parents were “brand” accessory fans, they might have opted to read it as Biton—as in Vuitton. Or taking “beautiful sound” literally, they might have decided on Bito = Beat, instead (well, maybe for a boy). Taking kirakira-naming even further, one might consider reading the kanji characters as Rizumu = Rhythm, or Piano or even Melody! As you might guess, many traditionalists don’t especially like where this is going.

MOST POPULAR JAPANESE NAMES

| YEAR | BOYS | GIRLS |
|------|---------|---------|
| 1915 | Kiyoshi | Chiyo |
| 1925 | Kiyoshi | Sachiko |
| 1935 | Hiroshi | Kazuko |
| 1945 | Masaru | Kazuko |
| 1955 | Takashi | Yoko |
| 1965 | Makoto | Akemi |
| 1975 | Makoto | Kumiko |
| 1985 | Daisuke | Ai |
| 1995 | Takuya | Misaki |
| 2005 | Riku | Hina |
| 2015 | Haruto | Hana |

In Hawaii quaint Meiji-era names, such as Chiyo, Tsuru or Hinaye, are often seen as middle names for Japanese-American girls. Or Tadashi, Kiyoto or Kakuji for boys. While old-fashioned, the time-honored names are usually selected by parents as a respectful tribute to the children’s grandparents or other members of the family. After all, *okagesama de*, we are what we are because of them. What better way to show gratitude and reverence than to perpetuate their names and memory for a lifetime!

— Ken Saiki



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MAY

| | | | |
|------|-----|---------|---|
| 5/6 | Sun | 10 am | Shōtsuki service/Sunday school |
| 5/6 | Sun | 12 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 5/8 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice |
| 5/10 | Thu | 7 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 5/13 | Sun | 10 am | Mother's Day family service/ Sunday school Men prepare otoki and clean up |
| 5/15 | Tue | 7 pm | O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe |
| 5/20 | Sun | 10 am | Shinran Shōnin birthday service/ Sunday school |
| 5/20 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting |
| 5/20 | Sun | 12 pm | Art of Paper Folding class Led by Jeanne Kawawata @ Otani Center |
| 5/21 | Mon | 9 am | HBC Memorial Day service Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery |
| 5/22 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice |
| 5/22 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Movie night: Go for Broke! (1951) Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 5/27 | Sun | 10 am | All Wars Memorial service/ Sunday school |
| 5/28 | Mon | 10 am | Shinran Shōnin memorial service |

JUNE

| | | | |
|------|-----|---------|---|
| 6/3 | Sun | 10 am | Shōtsuki service/Sunday school |
| 6/3 | Sun | 12 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/4 | Mon | 10 am | Betsuin study class |
| 6/9 | Sat | 10 am | Oahu MAP class Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/10 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 6/10 | Sun | 12 pm | Art of Paper Folding class |
| 6/12 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice |
| 6/14 | Thu | 7 pm | The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/17 | Sun | 10 am | Father's Day family service/ Sunday school |
| 6/17 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting |
| 6/18 | Mon | 10 am | Betsuin study class |
| 6/19 | Tue | 7 pm | O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin |
| 6/24 | Sun | 10 am | Local Dharma gathering led by Rev. Noriaki Fujimori |
| 6/26 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice |
| 6/26 | Tue | 6:30 pm | Movie night: Harmonium (2017) Fukuhara Conference Room |
| 6/28 | Thu | 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.