

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

12
December 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

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
Rev. Koen Kikuchi
Rev. Hidesato Kita

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
Website: 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



AWAKENING & SHINJIN AWARENESS

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

From this quote from *Shoshin-ge*, by Shinran Shonin, we can see the uniqueness of Jodo Shinshu:

*When the one thought-moment of joy arises,
Nirvana is attained without severing blind passions;
When ignorant and wise, even grave offenders and slanders of the dharma,
all alike turn and enter shinjin,
They are like waters that, on entering the ocean, become one in taste with it.*

Shinran Shonin understood that when the moment of rejoicing with shinjin awareness—the deep understanding of Buddha’s wisdom and compassion—happens within us, we attain Nirvana, the state of calmness, without shedding our blind passion.

The goal of general Buddhism is severing blind passion, attaining the state of Nirvana and becoming a buddha, or awakened one. “Nirvana” is a Sanskrit term, which literally means “extinguishing.” The word is derived from a verb meaning “to become cool,” or “to blow out,” as in the extinguishing of a candle. Our goal as Buddhists therefore is “blowing out” our blind passions and becoming buddhas.

In Buddhism, this blind passion, called “bonno” in Japanese, has two aspects:

- 1) The anxieties (anxiousness) of the physical body, which are hunger, thirst, and sense of hot and cold, fear of killing (murder) and inflicting harm.
- 2) The anguish (agony) of the mind, which includes greed, anger, wrath, foolishness. These are called the three poisons. Jealousy, envy, conceit, arrogance, doubt, prejudice (wrong view) are also problems of the mind. This anguish comes from our ego and self-centeredness that is at the core of our value system and priorities. We are always thinking, “Will this be a profit or loss for me or not?” We are always in anguish about human relations in our society.

In Buddhism, a person who has this blind passion is called *bombu*.

Shinran Shonin said in his essay, “*Notes on Once-calling and Many-calling*,” “we are full of ignorance and blind passion, ‘bombu.’ Our desires are countless, and anger, wrath, jealousy, and envy are overwhelming, arising without pause;

(cont’d on p. 2)

慶喜人となる

河和田賢淳

よく仏教は難しくてわからない。キリスト教や他の宗教の方が分かりやすいと言われます。本当にそうなのでしょうか。頭で理解できないことに私どもは不満を感じます。しかし仏教にはまた異なったアプローチもあるので。

浄土真宗では法を聴聞し慶ばれる方を慶喜人ともうします。この慶喜人となること、

(次のページに続く)



Rinban Ken Kawawata

AWAKENING & SHINJIN AWARENESS (cont'd from p. 1)

to the very last moment of life they do not cease, or disappear, or exhaust." Shinran pointed out the essence of a foolish being, which is ignorance and blind passion. This is human nature.

Shinran Shonin found out this answer from *The Larger Sutra*.

Buddha said, "If you hear the Dharma and able to keep it in mind, examine it with reverence and wisdom and great joy; then you will be my good friend.

You should resolve, therefore, to follow the way." (*From The Larger Sutra*)

So Buddha said that if you become a person who listens to the teachings and keep it in your mind, and respect it and have the great joy to listening the Dharma, you will be a good friend of the Buddha. In other words, you are a Dharma friend of the Buddha. Your being becomes the same quality as the Buddha's life.

And Shinran Shonin expressed his understanding of his thought in *Shoshinge*.

*"All foolish being, whether good or evil,
When they hear and entrust to Amida's universal vow,
Are praised by the Buddha as people of vast and excellent understanding;*

Such a person is called a pure white lotus."

So Shinran Shonin thought that even though foolish beings like us could attain or (have) the state of Nirvana by listening to and entrusting in the Buddha Dharma. He said, "Such a person is called a pure white lotus."

A white lotus is symbolized as the awakening or enlightenment, Nirvana in Buddhism.

At long last he reached his final answer that people who recite the Nenbutsu have the same quality as the Buddha.

So as Shinshu Buddhists, it is important to become a person who listens to the Dharma in our daily lives.

In gassho
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

慶喜人となる (前ページより続く)

法を聞いて慶ぶ人なることが、私どもにとって最も簡単な仏教を
実践し、教えにうなづくことができる道でありましょう。

お釈迦様は無量寿経の中で

東方偈

人、信慧(まことの智慧)あること難し、もし聞けば精進(努力して、初心を常に忘れないで)して求めよ。

法を聞いてよく忘れず、見て敬い得て大きに慶べば、

すなわち我が良き親友(しんぬ)なり、このゆえにまさに心を
発(おこ)すべし。

人が真の智慧を持つ事はとても難しい、もし仏法を聞く事が
できたら、努力して聴き求めなさい。

法を聞いてよく忘れず、見て敬って心より慶ぶ人は、すなわち
私の良き親友である。私と同等の者であるといわれた。仏様とい
っしょである。

そして、たとえ世界に満てらん火をも、必ず過ぎて求めて法を
聞けば、かならず仏道を成ずべし、広く生死の流れを度せん。

煩惱に満ちた世界、苦しい人生を歩むとも、法を聴き求めて行
けば、必ず仏と成る道が開け、迷いの岸から悟りの岸へ渡ることが
できる。とされています。

私ども人生は決して楽しい事だけでは人生ではありません。多
くの困難な事、悲しみや、苦しみがある人生でありましょう。し
かし法を聞き続け、仏道を歩み、迷いの世界から目覚め、法の世
界にいきる。すなわちお念仏生活をする事がすなわち仏の目を
持ち真実に目覚めて生きてゆくことができる。そこに教えにあっ
た喜びと生の喜びを見いだすことができる。そのような人を慶喜
人というのです。

また観無量寿経に

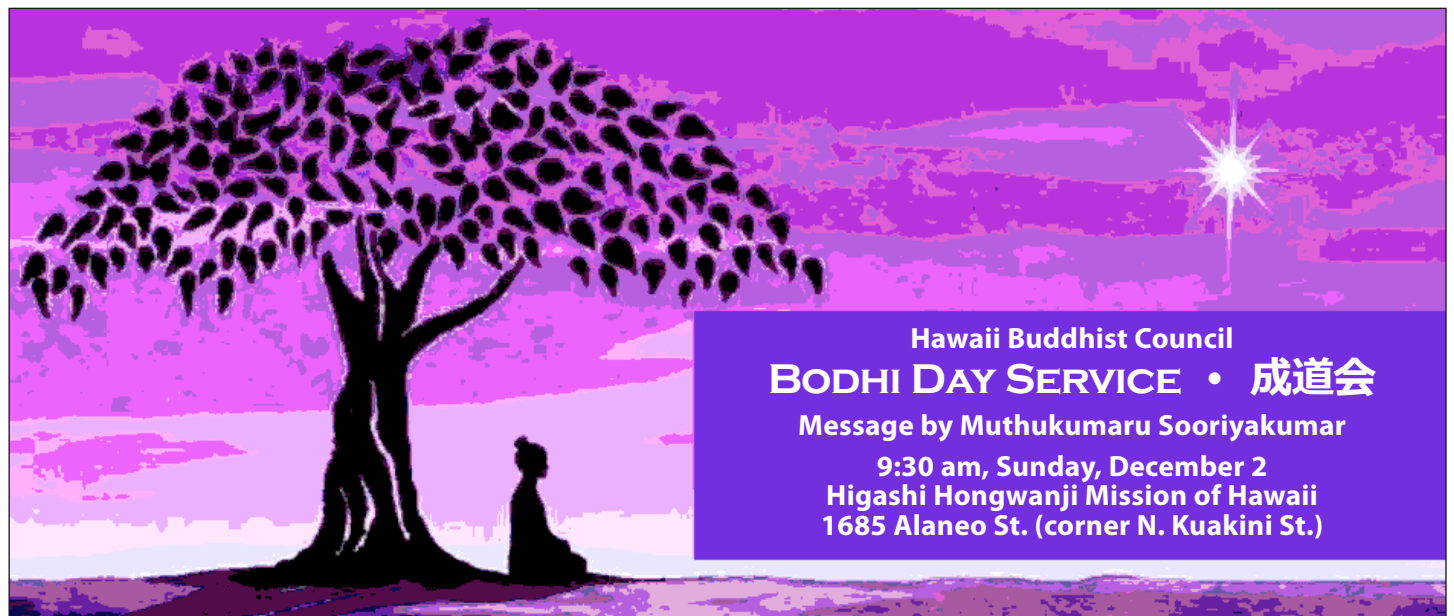
もし念仏する者は、当に知るべし、この人はこれ人中の分陀
利華なり。観世音菩薩・大勢至菩薩、その勝友と為りたまふ。当
に道場に坐して、諸仏の家に生ずべし。」仏、阿難に告げたまわ
く、「汝好くこの語を持て。この語を持てというは、すなわちこ
れ無量寿仏の名を持てとなり。」

お念仏する者は白い蓮の花である。菩薩の勝れた友達である。
だから道を求め、仏の家に生まれなさい。そして南無阿弥陀仏を
保ちなさいといわれています。

ですから仏教は理解する教えでなく、私どもの仏道とは念仏す
る者、仏法を聞き慶ぶ者となる事だと教えられます。

南無阿弥陀仏。

合掌
河和田賢淳



Hawaii Buddhist Council
BODHI DAY SERVICE • 成道会

Message by Muthukumar Sooriyakumar

9:30 am, Sunday, December 2
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St. (corner N. Kuakini St.)



Hawaii District 2019 calendar now available at the temple

The 2019 Higashi Hongwanji calendars feature quotations, calligraphy and photos to guide us each month through our "Let Us Discover the Joy of Living" theme. You'll appreciate the roomy blocks each day to jot appointments and notes to yourself, as well as the pre-printed dates for key temple events. As with our past Hawaii District calendars, we appreciate your donations to help defray the costs of printing and mailing. We thank you for your continued support. If you would like additional copies of the calendar, please contact us at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org or call 531-9088.

Nakura-sensei visits Betsuin



Miki Nakura, a former minister at our Betsuin, stopped in Honolulu during the Thanksgiving week. Besides meeting with old friends, he held a seiza quiet sitting class, in which participants learned how proper breathing can help you in daily meditation practice. Nakura-sensei leads a Jodo Shinshu sangha in New York.

Japanese temple traditions alive and well in our Hawaii Nei

Though separated from its roots by more than 4,000 miles of open ocean and a century of marked change, the Hawaii Betsuin maintains many customs and traditions originally brought over by the immigrants from Japan. We hope you will help us preserve these precious traditions with your participation, along with family and friends!



Jōdo-e 成道会
(Bodhi Day service)
9:30 am, Sun., Dec. 2

In commemoration of the enlightenment of Gautama Buddha, we reflect on how we may be able to follow his example.

Oosōji 大掃除
(Yearend cleaning)
9:00 am, Sat., Dec. 29



Everyone helps in our temple cleaning. We give thanks for the blessings of the past year and look to a fresh start for the new year.

Omigaki お磨き
(polishing of altar implements)
12:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 9

While clustered around a conference room table, temple volunteers work to remove the tarnish from the dozens of altar items, then polish to a sparkling gleam. At the same time, we catch up with the latest news and learn more about our fellow sangha members.



Mochitsuki 餅つき
(mochi pounding)
8:30 - 11:30 am
Sun., Dec. 30



Join us for our mochi-pounding ritual with *usu* and *kine*. It not only results in offerings for temple and home altars but offers an opportunity to give a lesson in working together, pass a time-honored tradition on to future generations, make for a memorable Kodak moment and you end up with New Year's mochi to take home!



除夜の鐘
Joya-e 除夜会
(Yearend service)
5:30 pm
Mon., Dec. 31

We express gratitude to our Dharma friends for the kindnesses we've received through the year. We ring the temple bell 108 times before we gather together for fellowship and a bowl of *toshikoshi* soba.

Shūshō-e 修正会
(New Year's service)
10:00 am
Tues., Jan. 1



We resolve to listen more intently to the Buddhadharma throughout the year. Then we have our fill of *ozoni*!

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
2018 Lecture Series



“Basic Buddhism”



Presented By
Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki

Tue., December 4 What is Religion? A Buddhist Perspective

Thu., December 6 The Life of the Historical Buddha

Tue., December 11 The Marks of Buddhism

Thu., December 13 The Four Noble Truths and Daily Life

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Where: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu (corner N. Kuakini St.)

Details: \$9 fee per lecture
Call 531-9088 or email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org



1955 Born in Honolulu, Hawaii.
1973 Graduated Waipahu High School
1977 Graduated University of Hawaii – Manoa
1977-92 Instructor, University of Hawaii – Manoa, Department of Electrical Engineering
1980-94 Computer Consultant
1992-94 Instructor, University of Hawaii – Hilo, Continuing Education and Community Service
1994 Tokudo, Nishi Hongwanji
1996 Graduated Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin
1996 Kyoshi, Nishi Hongwanji
1996 Associate Minister, Hawaii Betsuin
1997 Resident Minister, 4-Temple Council, Honomu, Honohina, Papaalooa and Papaikou Hongwanji
2002 Resident Minister, Wahiawa Hongwanji
2012 Director, Buddhist Study Center & Office of Buddhist Education

Detach Here

I would like to participate in the lecture series, “Basic Buddhism”.

Name:

Phone:

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

1685 Alaneo St. Honolulu, HI 96817 (808)531-9088 betsuin@hhbt-hi.org



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...

- **Awakening & Shinjin Awareness** p. 1
- **慶喜人となる** p. 1
- **News on the Betsuin Wireless** p. 3
- **2019 calendars available** p. 3
- **Nakura-sensei visits Betsuin** p. 3
- **No movie night this month**
- **Betsuin lecture series** p. 4
- **Mahalo Gozaimasu** p. 5
- **December shōtsuki service** p. 5
- **Temple activities calendar** p. 6

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DECEMBER

| | | | |
|-------|-----|---------|---|
| 12/2 | Sun | 9 am | HBC Bodhi Day service - 成道会 (Betsuin) |
| 12/3 | Mon | 10 am | Betsuin study class |
| 12/4 | Tue | 7 pm | Lecture series 1 - What is Religion? |
| 12/5 | Wed | 7 pm | Lecture series 2 - Life of Historical Buddha |
| 12/9 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 12/9 | Sun | 12 pm | Omigaki polishing of altar implements |
| 12/10 | Mon | 12 pm | 99 Lunch Bunch chat session |
| 12/11 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice |
| 12/11 | Tue | 7 pm | Lecture series 3 - Marks of Buddhism |
| 12/12 | Wed | 7 pm | Lecture series 4 - Noble Truths & Daily Life |
| 12/15 | Sat | 10 am | MAP class |
| 12/16 | Sun | 10 am | Shōtsuki memorial service |
| 12/16 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting |
| 12/16 | Sun | 12 pm | Art of Paper Folding class |
| 12/17 | Mon | 10 am | Betsuin study class |
| 12/18 | Tue | 3 pm | O-kō : Dharma discussion at Betsuin |
| 12/20 | Thu | 7 pm | Tea Time - informal dialogue session |
| 12/23 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 12/23 | Sun | 11:30am | Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning/lunch |
| 12/28 | Fri | 10 am | Shinran Shōnin memorial service |
| 12/29 | Sat | 9 am | Oosōji - 大掃除 year-end cleaning |
| 12/30 | Sun | 8:30 am | Mochitsuki - 餅つき mochi pounding |
| 12/31 | Mon | 5:30 pm | Year-end service - 除夜会・除夜の鐘 |

JANUARY

| | | | |
|------|-----|-------|--|
| 1/1 | Tue | 10 am | New Year's Day service - 修正会 Ozoni served after service |
| 1/6 | Sun | 10 am | Shōtsuki memorial service |
| 1/6 | Sun | 12 pm | Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese 仏教入門 (お話と座談会) Fukuhara conference room |
| 1/7 | Mon | 10 am | Betsuin study class Fukuhara conference room |
| 1/8 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room |
| 1/10 | Thu | 7 pm | The Larger Sutra class in English Fukuhara conference room |
| 1/13 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 1/14 | Mon | 12 pm | 99 Lunch Bunch chat session |
| 1/15 | Tue | 3 pm | O-kō : Dharma discussion at Kaneohe |
| 1/17 | Thu | 7 pm | Tea Time - informal dialogue session Fukuhara conference room |
| 1/20 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 1/20 | Sun | 12 pm | Betsuin board meeting |
| 1/21 | Mon | 10 am | Betsuin study class Fukuhara conference room |
| 1/22 | Tue | 3 pm | Ukulele class/band practice |
| 1/22 | Tue | 3 pm | Movie night: Hana-bi 花火 (1997) |
| 1/27 | Sun | 10 am | Sunday service/Sunday school |
| 1/28 | Fri | 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.