

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

January 2019

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.

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Rinban’s New Year Message

A STRAIGHTFORWARD MIND IS A PLACE OF PRACTICE

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

Happy New Year! Here’s hoping your yearend was peaceful and harmonious, with prospects for the same in the new year!

First of all, I’d like to express my sincere appreciation to all members and friends who continued to support the Betsuin and Higashi Honganji Hawaii District last year and allowing us to serve the community through the Buddha dharma. Without your kind help and cooperation, we would not have had such a successful and meaningful year and the temple would not have been able to provide the breadth of religious and social activities to appeal to different segments. I humbly ask for your continued support.

When I was in Los Angeles, my wife, Jeanne, received a gift of a *shikishi*, a paper art board, from Rev. Yokoyama. The *shikishi* had a drawing of a boar and a calligraphy of 直心是道場, *jikishin kore dojo*, or “A straightforward mind is a place of practice.”



Rinban Ken Kawawata

Jiki means straightforward and honest. Together with *shin*, mind or heart, *jikishin* becomes an entrusting mind and heart which has no doubt for the Buddha and dharma. That’s *shinjin* in Shin Buddhism. It is a straightforward spirit and pure mind to seek the way of life, which is the Bodhi mind. Once we establish this mind by the power of the Buddha’s innermost aspiration, we find the same aspiration within us and we never stop to seek the way.

In the Chinese zodiac, 2019 is the Year of Boar. In Japan, boars are known to be fast runners. They dash straight forward. Once a boar starts to run it doesn’t stop or turn, but just plows straight ahead, and therefore, implies a straightforward mind. This mind is a symbol of purity, honesty and straightforwardness, and thus *jikishin kore dojo* means an honest mind, a place to practice Buddha’s teaching.

(cont’d on p. 2)



新年のご挨拶

直心是道場でございます

河和田賢淳

みなさま新年明けましておめでとうございます。昨年も別院はご門徒、法友のみなさまのご協力の頂き実りある良き年となりました。心より御礼申し上げます。別院は仏法聴聞の場、また仏法を通してコミュニティの皆様方に奉仕できる開かれたお寺です。このお寺の宗教行事、講座やその他の活動を実施できるのは一重に皆様方のご協力があるからなのです。また皆様方の種々な形でのご支援をお願いしております。本年も引き続きのご支援ご協力を頂きますようお願い申し上げます。

干支では本年猪年です。私がロスアンゼルスにいた時、妻の友人から猪を描いた色紙いただきました。そしてそこには直心是道場(じきしんこれどうじょう)と書かれておりました。素直な心は道場、仏法を学び実践する場であるという事です。猪は真直ぐに走る動物と言われます。まっすぐな心、素直な心の象徴なのです。仏法をいただく素直な心です。ここ心を忘れなければどこにいても仏道を学ぶ道場と維摩経というお経さんに説かれているのです。お寺は仏法を聴聞する道場です。しかしお寺だけでなく、私たちの日常生活の中に仏法があり聴聞する時、生活そのままが道場となると教えられます。まっすぐな素直な心を持って日常を送る、すなわちこの心によって日常が仏法修行の場所となる、聞法の場、道場となるという事です。今年も心を開いて素直に仏法聴聞の生活をし、皆様と共に実りある一年となりますよう願います。 合掌

A STRAIGHTFORWARD MIND (cont'd from p. 1)

So with this mind, our entire life and living become the dojo where we listen and practice the Buddha dharma and our lives turn to the life of Onenbutsu, Namu Amida Butsu.

"A straightforward mind is a place of practice." I hope that all of us can find and establish this mind again, and

straightforwardly listen to the dharma together and make this year a wonderful and meaningful year.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the temple and participating at our varied activities.

Thank you in gassho,
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata



by Ken Saiki

Boars have been clocked at more than 40 kph, faster than the speed limit of many roads in their mountain habitat. Compared with the other denizens of the Chinese zodiac, they are, as Rinban said, fast runners.

But the *inoshishi* is the last animal in the Chinese zodiac. So I had to ask myself, "Self, if they're so fast, how come they ended up dead last?"

A peek into the depths of the internet unearthed several fascinating tales about how the zodiac order was determined. Most involved authority figures, from emperors to kings to my favorite, the Buddha himself!

From the legend explained at *Japan-Experience.com*, the Buddha had invited animals to a large dinner and agreed to proclaim a year for each in the order they arrived to the party.

Going hog wild to finish first

The Ox was leading the race to be first as the animals had to cross a river. The Rat asked if he could catch a ride on the Ox since he was too small to cross it alone. So did the Cat, and the Ox obliged. Before they got to the other side, the Rat pushed the Cat overboard. Once the Ox reached the opposite riverbank, the Rat jumped off, was first to dinner and became the

first animal in the zodiac calendar. The Cat apparently never made it to shore, or at least to the party in time, as it is not one of the zodiac animals today. This may also explain why cats are always hunting down rats!

As a result, people born in the Year of the Ox are thought to be naive, while being trustworthy isn't considered one of the top traits of Rat people.

The Tiger, Rabbit and Dragon came next. Since the Dragon could fly, it was the early favorite, but it had stopped at a village that needed help and got delayed, which may explain why Dragon people are thought to be generous and unselfish.

The Snake and Horse were neck and neck, literally. The Snake hid in the Horse's mane and when they arrived at the Buddha's home, he jumped out and frightened the horse and beat him out to the next spot, which explains while Horse people are said to scare easily and Snakes are considered sly.

Taking their speed for grunted

The Sheep, Monkey and Rooster made the trip together, followed by the Dog and finally, the Boar. Both the Dog and Boar weren't slowpokes but made many stops along the way; the Dog to play and the Boar to eat.

So this fable gives us a clue as to why the Boar, speedy as it was, didn't end up any higher up in the chart.

Since ancient times, *inoshishi* have had a relatively peaceful coexistence with humans in Japan. They are a sub-species of wild boar found on Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa, and historically have stayed in the forests and mountains.

However, the combination of several factors, such as humans moving into wild animal territory, warmer winters, the disappearance of natural predators—the Japanese wolf went extinct in the early 1900's

due to overhunting and disease—the population of boars, as well as other wild animals, is increasing and they are becoming a growing menace to humans. Wild boars have been eating farmers' crops, digging into embankments, creating messes in backyards and sometimes even attacking people.

Some boaring statistics

Of the \$150 million in crop damage in Japan every year by wild boars, more than 25% is caused by wild boars. While fences help keep man and beast separated, it's just a temporary solution.

Boars being boars, they're just being their natural selves. Humans are the ones responsible for upsetting the delicate balance and causing the problem. Therefore humans are the ones who must now make every effort to work toward restoring the relationship between man and Nature.

SUMI-E BOAR

This painting was created by Sengai Zenji (1750-1837), a Zen Buddhist priest. A copy was framed and donated to the Betsuin by member Dale Oishi. The calligraphy reads 其れ出たわ, sore detawa, or "Oh! That came out!" Sengai was known for his whimsical sumi-e paintings.





OMIGAKI: Volunteers gather around the conference room table, don gloves and grab a polishing cloth to make sure the altar implements look their Sunday best in preparation for the New Year. It's also a great way to keep up with the goings-on in the community!

Full-color 2019 District calendar still available at Betsuin office

If you did not receive a copy of the Higashi Honganji Hawaii District calendar in the mail, or would like another copy, there's good news!

We have a limited supply of the calendars available at the office. Please email us at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org or call 531-9088 and we'll set aside one for you. You can either pick it up at the office or we'll mail it to you.

Save the date: Feb. 24 for our annual meeting and shinnenkai

You won't want to miss our annual Shinnenkai/New Year banquet Feb. 24, following a short general membership meeting and Sunday service starting at 10 am.

There's lots of food, fun, games, prizes and entertainment in store for you. Watch for the announcement!

If you or your company can donate items to make the celebration more fun, please call us at 531-9088.

Attention: are you celebrating your 80th birthday in 2019?

Were you born in 1939 (Showa 14)? Members attaining the age of 80 in 2019 will be recognized and receive a

special gift at our Feb. 24 *shinnenkai*, or New Year banquet. That's all in addition to taking part in a sumptuous all-you-can-eat buffet lunch and the other fun activities. Call 531-9088 and let us know you're celebrating your 80th!

"Unclassifiable" movie, HANA-BI, is January's featured selection

Yoshitaka Nishi (Takeshi Kitano/Beat Takeshi) is a beleaguered Japanese police officer. His wife, Miyuki (Kayoko Kishimoto), is suffering from leukemia, and his partner, Horibe (Ren Ôsugi), is paralyzed after gangsters violently attacked him. Nishi is fed up, and wants to give up his job in order to be with Miyuki. To do so, he is forced to borrow money from the yakuza, and then, to clear his debt, he robs a bank. The yakuza, however, are not pleased so easily, and they continue to hound Nishi for more money.

David Stratton of *The Movie Show* calls HANA-BI "hard to describe... all I can say is go see it, it's great." Winning the 1997 Venice International Film Festival Golden Lion Award, HANA-BI helped Kitano skyrocket to fame as a director. The film won the 1999 Japan Academy Award Best Music and was nominated for Best Director, Screenplay,

Actor, Actress, Supporting Actor, Photography, among other categories. Named 1999 Kinema Junpo Best Ten Japanese Films #1, 1999 Yokohama Film Festival Best Ten Japanese Films #3, plus other awards.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Jan. 22, 103 min. Color, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

花火 (はなび)

不治の病に冒され余命いくばくもない妻(岸本加世子)を見舞っていた西(北野武/ビートたけし)は、自分の代わりに張り込んでいた同僚の堀部(大杉漣)が犯人に撃たれたとの知らせを聞く。堀部は命こそ取り留めたものの、車椅子を使わなければならぬ体になってしまった。刑事を退職した西はヤクザから金を借り、妻に不自由な生活を送らせようとするが、返済が滞っていく。西は妻を最後の旅行へ連れて行くために銀行強盗を行い旅に出る。途中でヤクザが追いかけて来たが皆殺しにし、最終的には元同僚の刑事に追い詰められる。

賞歴：第54回ヴェネツィア国際映画祭・グランプリ(金獅子賞); 第22回日本アカデミー賞：最優秀賞 - 音楽賞、優秀賞・作品賞/監督賞/脚本賞/主演男優賞/主演女優賞/助演男優賞/撮影賞/編集賞/照明賞/音響賞; 第72回キネマ旬



報ベスト・テン日本映画第1位; 第20回ヨコハマ映画祭日本映画ベストテン第3位、その他。

監督：北野武、公開：1997年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：103分、1月22日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

WHAT IS A

Buddhist



The following is an excerpt from "What Is a Buddhist?" by Dr. Nobuo Haneda., Director of the Maida Center of Buddhism, Berkeley, CA.

There are two ways of defining "Buddhism." One is identifying it with a fruit in the basket. The other is identifying it with the basket itself.

If "Buddhism" is a fruit in the basket—a specific doctrine, such a Buddhism is so narrow and limited; it is not the true Buddhism.

If "Buddhism" is a doctrine that can be compared with other doctrines, that is a misunderstanding of what Shakyamuni taught.

If "Buddhism" means such a limited thing, I do not want to become a "Buddhist." I do not want to be called a "Buddhist."

But if "Buddhism" means the basket itself, if it means the realization of a broad and empty mind, an ocean-like mind, an all-encompassing mind, I want to become a "Buddhist."

If "Buddhist" means a person who can worship all kinds of teachers and study under them, I want to be called a "Buddhist."

Don't become a fruit in the basket! Become the basket! Appreciate all kinds of fruits in the basket! Buddhism is appreciating all kinds of teachers and teachings.

There are so many wonderful teachers and teachings in the world. Let's forget labels such as Christianity, Islam, etc. Let's forget even the labels such as "Buddhism," "Zen," or "Shin."

Let us study from all. We are, after all, all human beings. We share the same human suffering and the same human aspirations. We do not have to be trapped by superficial labels and identities.

If you could relate to this snippet from Dr. Haneda's writings, you'll want to read the rest of his easy-to-grasp essay, "What Is a Buddhist?"

Another consideration is joining one of our study classes or discussion groups. Try it to see if it's right for you.

If you'd like a free copy of the essay or would like to know more about our programs, call us at 531-9088 or email us at betauin@hhbt-hi.org.

Time to plan for your 2019 anniversary memorial services

In Buddhist tradition, memorial services are held during certain anniversary years to provide families an opportunity to gather, remember those who have passed and listen to the dharma. We give thanks to our deceased loved ones for the life they shared with us.

Traditionally, families in Hawaii have observed the following special memorial services. For 2019 the services commemorate deaths of loved ones which occurred in the years shown below.

Please call 531-9088 for more information or to schedule a memorial service. It may be held at the temple, your home or other location where your family and others can conveniently gather.

2018	1st anniversary
2017	3rd year memorial
2013	7th year memorial
2007	13th year memorial
2003	17th year memorial
1995	25th year memorial
1987	33rd year memorial
1970	50th year memorial



SENIOR FALL SAFETY CLASS

Kupuna Aikido cordially invites you to a SENIOR FALL SAFETY CLASS (\$25)

According to the Hawaii Fall Prevention Consortium, falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations among Hawaii residents age 65 and older.

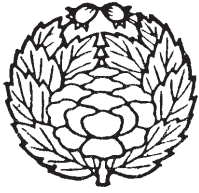
Although this class is designed with that in mind—to provide seniors with a method to receive falls safely—the class is open to all adults. The class covers:

- Strengthening/Limbering Exercises
- Understanding Balance/Unbalancing
- Aikido-Based Method to Receive Falls Safely
- Situational Awareness

WHEN: Every Wednesday, Jan. 16 - Mar. 6, 2019
9 - 9:50 am, 10 - 10:50 am & 11 - 11:50 am
(Online registration 12/21/18 - 1/11/19)

WHERE: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Otani Center (Punchbowl side of parking lot)
1685 Alaneo St., corner N. Kuakini St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

WEAR: Loose-fitting comfortable clothing, such as sweatpants/T-shirt/training wear.
For more information, contact:
Kupuna Aikido
www.kupunaaikido.org • Ph. 732-7066



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JANUARY

1/1	Tue	10 am	New Year's Day service - 修正会 <i>Ozōni soup served after service</i>
1/6	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service
1/6	Sun	12pm	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
1/8	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
1/10	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
1/13	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
1/14	Mon	12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch at Moanalua 99 Food Court
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	Meditation Sutra class
1/22	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
1/22	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: HANA-BI 花火 (1997) Fukuhara Conference Room
1/27	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
1/28	Mon	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

FEBRUARY

2/3	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service
2/3	Sun	12pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese 仏教入門 (お話と座談会) Fukuhara Conference Room
2/4	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class Fukuhara Conference Room
2/9	Sat	12 pm	Oahu MAP class
2/10	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
2/12	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
2/14	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
2/17	Sun	10 am	Nirvana Day service
2/17	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
2/18	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class Fukuhara Conference Room
2/19	Tue	3 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
2/24	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
2/24	Sun	11 am	General membership meeting Shinnenkai/New Year Party Otani Center
2/26	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
2/26	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Shoplifters 万引き家族 (2018)
2/28	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.