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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

February 2019
2

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

THE PATH TO COMPLETE NIRVANA

Rev. Koen Kikuchi

February 15 is recognized by Buddhists as “Nirvana Day.” Nirvana Day is the day Shakyamuni Buddha reached complete Nirvana at the age of 80.

Nirvana itself has a meaning of “to extinguish,” and it is a state where Bonno, or suffering, is extinguished. This is the original meaning of the word “Nirvana.” Shakyamuni Buddha reached the state of Nirvana, but he realized that, as long as he had his own body, he couldn’t avoid the Bonno, the three poisons of greed, anger, and ignorance. So, when he died, he reached complete Nirvana.

No ho ichi nen ki ai shin, fu dan bon no toku ne han. “When one moment of thought with joy (and love) rises, one attains Nirvana even without destroying the evil passions.” This passage is from *Shoshinge*, or “Hymn on the Nenbutsu of the Right Faith,” which Shinran Shonin wrote. Nirvana is a state where Bonno is extinguished, but here it says that one attains Nirvana without extinguishing Bonno. This seems to be a contradiction. What does this mean?



Rev. Koen Kikuchi

The word “Nirvana” can be interpreted in several ways. One is the state of all the blind passions being extinguished, which is the state of peace and calm. Second is the meaning of complete Nirvana and death. The third is awakening. If we understand the sentence of *Shoshinge* as the first and second meaning, it doesn’t make sense. But if we look at the sentence as the

(cont’d on p.2)

煩惱を断ぜずして涅槃を得るなり

菊地香円 師

2月15日はお釈迦様が亡くなられた日として、寺院では「涅槃会」が勤まります。この日はお釈迦様がお亡くなりになられた、そして涅槃の境地に到達された日であります。

「涅槃」とは「吹き消す」「吹き消した状態」という意味から、「煩惱の火が吹き消された状態」を意味します。お釈迦様は厳しい修行、そして瞑想の末、涅槃の境地に到達されました。しかし同時に、肉体がある限り完全な涅槃ではない、どうしても肉体があるがゆえの煩惱からは逃れることはできないと悟られました。そして、お釈迦様はお亡くなりになられた際、完全なる涅槃の境地に至りました。

「能発一念喜愛心 不断煩惱得涅槃（よく一念喜愛の心を発すれば、煩惱を断ぜずして涅槃を得るなり。）」これは親鸞聖人がお書きになられた「正信偈」からのお言葉です。「涅槃」の元々の意味は「煩惱の火が吹き消された状態」を指しているのにも関わらず、煩惱を断つことなく煩惱のなくなった状態である涅槃を得ることができると述べられています。一見矛盾しているように見えますが、果たして何を意味しているのでしょうか。

古田和弘先生によると、「涅槃」という言葉は元々、「煩惱の火が吹き消された状態」という意味を持っていましたが、お釈迦様が亡くなられて完全なる涅槃に至られたことから、「死」を意味する様にもなりました。そして、その理解が深められ、「悟り」という積極的な意味に理解されるようになりまし

(次のページに続く)

THE PATH TO COMPLETE NIRVANA (cont'd from p. 1)

third meaning, we can understand, and this must be the same understanding of Shinran Shonin.

Nirvana Day is the day of the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha, who reached complete Nirvana. It is extremely difficult for us to reach the state where all the Bonno is extinguished by ourselves, but Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin show us that there is a path where we can walk to complete Nirvana even while our bodies are filled with Bonno. On the way to complete Nirvana, we cannot get and keep possessing the Nirvana as awakening, but we can receive Nirvana as wisdom—like a flashlight illuminating the way—by listening to the Buddha Dharma. This is the path of complete Nirvana. Also, this is the path of Nembutsu.

I hope to see you at our Betsuin Nirvana Day service on Feb. 17.

Namu Amida Butsu

煩惱を断ぜずして涅槃を得るなり (前ページより続く)

た。「悟り」は煩惱の有る無しに関わらず、それを越えた境地ですから、「悟り」としての「涅槃」に到達することがありうるということです。

ニルヴァーナデーは、お釈迦様が完全なる涅槃の境地に到達された日であります。凡夫の身にとって、自分の力で煩惱を一つ残らずない状態に到達することは大変難しいこと



The 52' x 26' painting depicting Buddha on his deathbed at Sennyuji Temple in Kyoto is said to be the largest in Japan. 京都の泉涌寺の涅槃図で日本最大の涅槃図「16m x 8m」だそうです。

とであります。しかし、お釈迦様、並びに親鸞聖人はこの煩惱が満ち溢れたこの身のまま、完全なる涅槃の境地に至ることができる道を示してくださいました。その道中では、「悟り」としての「涅槃」を自分の所有物のように握りしめ、この身にずっと保持することはできません。ですから聞法を通して、智慧としての「涅槃」をその都度その都度いただいでいく、これが完全なる涅槃への道、念仏の道であります。

別院では2月17日に涅槃会が勤まります。皆様方と一緒に仏様の教えを聞き、ともに同じ時間を過ごせたら大変ありがたいことあります。お待ちいたしております。

南無阿弥陀仏

Lucky Drawings!

You're Invited!

Exciting Prizes!

Tasty dishes from New Mui Kwai!

Wheel! Crispy gau gee for me!

Wait a minute! Do you know what's inside a gau gee?

I want the Instant Pot®!



Games!

YEAR OF THE BOAR

Over the Hilltop Serenaders!

WHO: Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin members, families & friends

WHAT: GENERAL MEETING & SHINNENKAI (New Year Banquet)

WHEN: Sunday, February 24, starting at 11am
(Immediately following our Sunday service)

WHERE: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St. (corner N. Kuakini St.)

RSVP: Call now! Ph. 531-9088 (Name, # adults, # children)
\$10 per person; children 12 & under FREE

Balloon art for the kids!

Karaoke!

Food, fun & fellowship!



Ehime Maru Memorial: Betsuin and Kanohe temple members join in community service cleaning at Kakaako Waterfront Park on Dec. 23. Following a short service at the memorial, the group gathered under the pavilion at the shoreline for a hearty potluck lunch. Photo courtesy Kenjun Kawawata

Gojikai membership dues for 2019 are payable now

If you haven't paid your Betsuin gojikai membership dues for 2019 yet, here's a reminder that they're due.

Membership dues are a vital part of our temple funding, going toward our various religious, education and social community outreach programs, maintenance of our columbarium and other facilities, and our day-to-day operations.

Of course, we also rely on rental, investment and other fundraising sources and are grateful for the generous donations and material support from individuals and businesses for use in our activities.

You may want to send in your dues soon if only to take advantage of the current \$75 fee, which increases to

\$100 per year starting July 1, 2019. We will collect 2019 dues at the \$75 current rate until June 30, after which the new \$100 rate takes effect.

We appreciate your timely attention to member dues. Please call us at 531-9088 if you have questions.

2019 Academy Award nominee *Shoplifters* scheduled for Feb. 19

Shoplifters, an Academy Awards finalist for Best Foreign Language Film for 2019 directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda and an audience favorite at film festivals worldwide, is our movie night feature for Feb. 19 (new date).

Osamu (Lily Franky) is a shoplifter in an old downtown Tokyo neighborhood and training his young son, Shota (Kairi Jyo) to follow in his footsteps. They encounter little Yuri (Miyu Sasaki) freezing on a nearby balcony and bring her home. His wife, Nobuyo (Sakura Ando), who works in a hotel laundry, objects but accepts the circumstances. Along with Nobuyo's younger sister, Aki (Mayu Matsuoka), a hostess club worker, the family relies on the pension checks of Grandma Hatsue (Kirin Kiki). What will happen to this poor, but happy family...

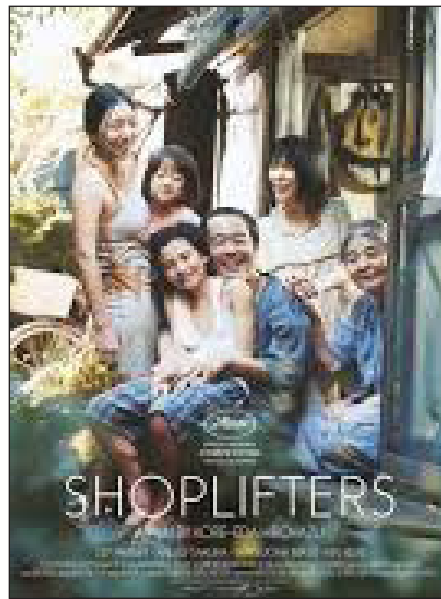
Awards include the 71st Cannes International Film Festival Competition Division Palme d'Or (top award); 2019 Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film finalist; 2019 Golden Globe Best Foreign Language Film nominee; 2018 Yokohama Film Festival, Best Actress, Sakura Ando, Best

Supporting Actress: Mayu Matsuoka, 2018 Nikkan Sports Film Awards: Best Film, Best Actress, Sakura Ando; Best Supporting Actress: Kirin Kiki.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., **Feb. 19**, 121 min. Color, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

万引き家族 (まんびきかぞく)

再開発が進む東京の下町のなか、ポツンと残された古い住宅街に暮らす一家。日雇い労働者の父・治 (リリー・フランキー) と息子の祥太 (城桧吏) は、生活のために“親子”ならではの連係プレーで万引きに励んでいた。その帰り、団地の廊下で凍えている幼い女の子を見つける。思わず家に連れて帰ってきた治に、妻・信代 (安藤サクラ) は腹を立てるが、ゆり (佐々木みゆ) の体が傷だらけなことから境遇を察し、面倒を見ることにする。祖母・初枝 (樹木希林) の年金を頼りに暮らす一家は、JK見学店でバイトをしている信代の妹・亜紀 (松岡茉優)、新しい家族のゆりも加わり、貧しいながらも幸せに暮らしていたが……。



編集: 第71回 カンヌ国際映画祭コンペティション部門 パルムドール (最高賞); 第76回ゴールデングローブ賞外国語映画賞ノミネート; 第40回ヨコハマ映画祭主演女優賞「安藤サクラ」、助演女優賞「松岡茉優」; 第31回日刊スポーツ映画大賞作品賞、主演女優賞「安藤サクラ」、助演女優賞「樹木希林」; その他。

監督: 是枝裕和、公開: 2018年、カラー、言語: 日本語、字幕: 英語、映時間: 121分、**2月19日(火)**午後6:30時、入場無料。



Rev. Bunsho Obata (right), retired bishop of Higashi Honganji South America District, was guest speaker at our Jan. 27 service, with Rinban Kawawata assisting with translation. Rev. Obata was in Hawaii conducting training for three days for our local district ministers.

Community Mochitsuki Event



Since mochi is a traditional *osonae* offering for our Betsuin altar, making mochi has been a regular year-end activity at the temple for several years. Members and friends would often join us to make enough mochi for their New Year needs.

Wanting to share this fun family activity with others in the community, we went public with our mochitsuki event this year, hoping we might be able to increase awareness of our temple at the same time.

Increase awareness it did! Some 200 people came to our event—many first-timers at our temple and from our own neighborhood—some staying from beginning to end. With the power of word-of-mouth, the buzz was on and families galore dropped in to check out what we had to offer.

It was your proverbial three-ring circus, with a delightful array of things to see and do. Visitors got to observe the whole process of steaming the rice and transferring to

A COMMUNITY THAT MAKES MOCHI TOGETHER SURE TO STICK TOGETHER!

Clockwise, from upper left: Traditional mochi pounding, accompanied by shouts of "Yoisho!" highlighted the day's events. Junior-sized kine were designed for the keiki, many of whom said they were pounding mochi for the first time.

It was a toss-up as to who was enjoying doing the various traditional craft activities more...was it the youngsters or the adults?

Small batches of karamen, with konnyaku-like noodles, were prepared and served to those who wanted to try this spicy "ramen."

The Japanese art of origami provides endless possibilities in what you can create with a small square of colorful paper.

Once made into a sticky blob by pounding or with an electric mochi maker, they are formed into rounds of varying sizes.

an *usu*, then joined in with pounding with *kine*, shaping the rice cakes, adding various fillings and finally, eating their fresh creations. Plus, there was mochi to take home.

Meanwhile there were cooking side shows for *karaage* chicken, Japanese-style *tamago yaki* omelets and *karamen*, a spicy "ramen" with

konnyaku-like noodles. Fortunately, the demos weren't only treats for the eyes, as samples were passed out to satisfy taste buds and tummies, too.

What's more, as if there wasn't enough to do, we had engaging "make 'n' take" activities for cultural immersion, including *imoban* potato stamp-making, *origami* animals and *shikishi sumi-e* calligraphy art, adding to the educational fun.

We appreciate the many positive comments received and will continue to seek ways our temple can serve as a community gathering place.

"Thank you for the experience!"

"Everyone was incredibly nice and welcoming."

"Mahalo for inviting the community. I've lived here all my life and have never seen what it takes to make mochi."

"Enjoyed the family atmosphere and everyone given the chance to participate."

To all: Thank you very mochi! See you at our next mochitsuki!

TRADE WIND

HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN / KANEOHE HIGASHI HONGWANJI / HILO HIGASHI HONGWANJI

PALOLO HONGWANJI / WAIMEA HIGASHI HONGWANJI

WINTER 2019

LET US DISCOVER THE JOY OF LIVING

“Challenging to Open Our Minds”

*Rev. Marcos Jinen Sawada
Hilo Higashi Hongwanji*

Happy New Year! It has been a long time since we repeated this phrase. For us, the starting point is an opportunity to reset some things that weren't well in our lives last year and to try to improve them. It means that I'm not wholly satisfied with my present way of life or my conduct, and I need to change something. But, as Buddha says, "We have to awaken from this dream called existence!" Then, this is a good moment.

People, including me, associate happiness in terms of physical, mental, material and emotional advantages. If I'm young, healthy and beautiful, I feel happy based on my present condition. If I have money, cars, a big and good house to live in, I'm happy for those comforts. If I don't have any problems, some good friends and relationships, I'm happy. The conditions for those kinds of happiness come from external conditions. They are only sensations; they change constantly. We aren't able to keep them. So, when those conditions leave me, I will feel happy no more and I will try to search for something external to make me happy again. I associate my happiness with an external condition; I have to pick it up again in this impermanent world. What do I have to do?

Did you challenge yourself to start something new in 2018? Did you have something embarrassing happen to you or had a situation you struggled with last year? I think we all did. Last year, I started judo among boys and girls age 7-13. I am only a white belt in my fifties trying to follow them. Every practice I feel a lot of new sensations. My body doesn't move like theirs, but I feel so much pleasant sensations mixed with physical pain. When the young boy or girl succeeds in throwing me, I can see satisfaction on their faces. "You cannot beat me; I'm yellow belt and really stronger than you!" Being thrown by them makes me happier and I appreciate learning together, not only the *waza* (the technique or skill), but from their smiles or the sensation of doing well. I also learn from my whole



Rev. Marcos Jinen Sawada

body, ankles, toes, lower back and neck. Going to judo isn't only a way to exercise; it is a way to encounter myself.

I have three reasons for starting this practice. First, trying to make my son come back to judo (he quit last year). To me, doing some exercise is important so we do not become sedentary. I think if I keep doing it, one day he would return to this important practice. The second reason is, as minister of this temple, I am expected to connect the temple activities and classes to Hilo Higashi Hongwanji. Finally, I am challenged to learn something new and at the same time, I can exercise. To my surprise, I encountered more than I expected. It created the opportunity to look at myself in a more sincere way which then transcended all of my old ideas and concepts.

At the dojo, all generations are represented and they all practice together. There is respect, discipline and tradition. There are natural and artificial situations where you become humble, aggressive, defensive or pretentious depending on the situation and how you choose to solve it. This multitude of sensations brings different experiences and they enrich my meaning about living now. Challenging yourself to do something opens your mind. "But...sensei, I'm really too old to do something!" OK! Just start something and you will find where you stand. As Buddha teaches us, the situation is as it is; we cannot change it. We try to escape from age, illness and death instead of looking at them as a natural happening in this impermanent life. But, we cannot! Then what can we do? Simply accept reality as it is.

Although we cannot change the situations that come to us, we can do a really deep self-examination on how we are feeling and making judgments from the concepts created in our mind. Doing a deep introspection about reacting emotionally allows us to stop, breathe and see reality (which cannot be changed) in a more meaningful way. It helps us to reach a more convincing answer for the complexity called Living.

"Joy of Living" isn't found in the ego but in the reality of the Dharma (everything you see and cannot see); in *Jinen Houni* (nature of impermanence) or as it is. We don't receive any kind of personal advantages or benefits. The meaning of reality becomes more neutral and equal for all of us. It breaks static concepts and ideas and points toward the universal and infinite without our human-centered view. It is neither positive nor negative; only as it is! This world is only sensations and ideas. Awaken from the dream called existence!

Namuamidabutsu!

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Overseas District Abbot

To all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts, I wish you a Happy New Year. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming the new year together with you as a member of the sangha.



Chōyū Ōtani

It has already been seven years since I was appointed as Overseas District Abbot. I have been given precious opportunities to listen to the teaching together with you at the Hōonkō services of the temples in your districts. Recently, I also have had the chances to welcome you at the Honzan during your visit to Kyoto for Hōshidan tours or other activities. When I see those of you who came all the way from Brazil, North America and Hawaii at our spiritual home, the Shinshū Honbyō, and pay our respects in front of Shinran Shōnin's image together, I always find myself embraced by the spirit of the Shōnin's teaching that "throughout the world, we are all brothers and sisters" with a renewed feeling of deep appreciation. In the spring of 2020, the 13th World Dōbō Gathering will be held in Kyoto. I sincerely look forward to sharing the joy of listening to the teaching with as many of you as possible at that event.

I wish to conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.

Chief Administrator

I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in the overseas districts. I would also like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.



Bishop
Hiroshi Tajima

As you may know, our denomination has already begun preparations for the 850th Celebration of Shinran Shōnin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū in 2023. I have come to realize that the purpose of celebrating the birth of the Shōnin and the establishment of the teaching is that I, myself, must become one who can truly appreciate the meaning of my life and share that appreciation with other people. I believe this is the only way I can live up to the wishes of the Shōnin who expressed his gratitude for Amida Buddha's Original Vow of liberating all sentient beings through the words, "I am convinced that it was for me, Shinran, alone!"

In other words, for us who have been so fortunate to encounter the Shōnin's teaching, the celebration of those anniversaries is none other than the act of repaying our debt of gratitude to him. I sincerely wish that this auspicious occasion will become the opportunity for all of us to deepen our appreciation for the Shōnin's birth and his establishment of the teaching of Jōdo Shinshū as the broadest path to Buddhahood, together with our sangha members. It is no exaggeration to say that those events will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our denomination. Each of us, as one who has encountered the teaching, needs to take on the responsibility as a member of the denomination to truly realize a sangha of the nenbutsu where everyone can live together with mutual respect.

In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you.

ACTIVITIES

REPORTS

District Committee September 8, 2018

Our yearly Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Committee Meeting was held on Saturday, September 8. Each temple had representatives attending with their resident minister. We discussed FY2017 Activity Report, FY2018 Financial Report, FY2018 Activity Plan and FY2018 Budget.

Ministers' Seminar

January 23 - 25, 2019

We invited Dr. Bunsho Obata to be our speaker at this seminar. The topic was our District theme "Let Us Discover the Joy of Living."

FUTURE PLANS

Joint Dharma Gathering

March 9 - 10, 2019

A Joint Dharma Gathering will be held on March 9 at 10 am at Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, on March 10 at 10 am at Hilo Higashi Hongwanji. The speaker is Rev. Patti Nakai from The Buddhist Temple of Chicago. If you have any questions, please contact your temple or Hawaii District Office.

TRADE WIND

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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2/3	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service
2/3	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese 仏教入門 (お話と座談会)
2/4	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class
2/9	Sat	12 pm	Oahu MAP class
2/10	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
2/11	Mon	12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch chat session Moanalua 99 Food Court
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
2/17	Sun	10 am	Nirvana Day service
2/17	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
2/17	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding - Otani Center
2/18	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class
2/19	Tue	3 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
2/19	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Shoplifters 万引き家族 (2018)
2/21	Thu	7 pm	Tea Time Fukuhara Conference Room
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
2/28	Thu	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service

MARCH

3/3	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service
3/3	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese 仏教入門 (お話と座談会)
3/4	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class
3/9	Sat	10 am	Joint Dharma Gathering - Otani Center
3/10	Sun	8 am	Honolulu Rainbow Ekiden (no service at Betsuin)
3/11	Mon	12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch chat session Moanalua 99 Food Court
3/12	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
3/14	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
3/17	Sun	10 am	Ohigan service/Sunday school
3/17	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
3/17	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding - Otani Center
3/18	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class
3/19	Tue	3 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
3/21	Thu	7 pm	Tea Time Fukuhara Conference Room
3/24	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
3/26	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
3/26	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: The Only Son ひとり息子(1936)
3/28	Thu	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
3/30	Sat	12 pm	Oahu MAP class
3/31	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school

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.