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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

March 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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Editor: Ken Saiki

YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

When I was in college, I used to listen to the radio until the wee hours of the night, waiting for my favorite songs. Peter, Paul and Mary, The Brothers Four and The Kingston Trio would be playing. There were also singers like Simon & Garfunkel, Carole King and John Denver, who would become famous song writers. Influenced by a friend, I started playing the guitar.

This past New Year, I had couple of days off. I was relaxing and browsing the internet and came across the Carole King song, “You’ve Got a Friend.” Listening to the song made me reminisce of those good old days while attending college in Kyoto and being with my close friends:

*When you’re down and troubled
And you need some love and care
And nothing, nothing is going right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night*

*You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I’ll come running, to see you again.
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I’ll be there
You’ve got a friend.*

*If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you’ll hear me knocking at your door.*

*You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I’ll come running, running, yeah, yeah, to see you again.
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I’ll be there, yes, I will.*

*Now, ain’t it good to know that you’ve got a friend
When people can be so cold?
They’ll hurt you, yes, and desert you
And take your soul if you let them, oh, but don’t you let them.*

*You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I’ll come running, running, yeah, yeah, to see you again.
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I’ll be there, yes, I will
You’ve got a friend.*

*You’ve got a friend
Ain’t it good to know you’ve got a friend?
Ain’t it good to know, ain’t it good to know, ain’t it good to know
You’ve got a friend?
Oh yeah now, you’ve got a friend
Yeah baby, you’ve got a friend
Oh yeah, you’ve got a friend.*



Rinban Ken Kawawata



Carole King

(cont’d on p. 2)

FRIEND (cont'd from p. 1)

After listening to the song, I read the lyrics again describing true caring for a friend and ideal friendship. It dawned on me that it was the same message as in Buddha's teaching. The Nembutsu and Buddha dharma work in exactly the same way.

*When you're down and troubled
And you need some love and care
And nothing, nothing is going right
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest night.*

When your life does not go the way you wish, have difficulties in your life, need care and guidance for your life, calm down and think of Buddha. Then the Dharma is recalled in you and brightens up your life.

*You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I'll come running, to see you again
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there
You've got a friend.*

Just call Buddha's name, *Namu Amida Butsu*. It doesn't matter where you are. You just need to call the name of Buddha. Then the Buddha dharma will be there to brighten your life. You are not alone. You've got your true friend, Buddha!

*If the sky above you
Grows dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind begins to blow
Keep your head together
And call my name out loud
Soon you'll hear me knocking at
your door.*

Sometimes clouds hover over your life and you cannot see the sky above. Many difficulties may come before you. Like the frigid north wind in the midst of winter, the winds of impermanence come in your life. Even then, calm down and call the Buddha's name out loud. You will soon hear Buddha's call and the dharma within you.

*Now, isn't it good to know that
you've got a friend
When people can be so cold?
They'll hurt you, yes, and desert you*

*And take your soul if you let them,
oh, but don't you let them.*

Sometimes people are nice, yet sometimes they're so cold. Sometimes they hurt you and sometimes you hurt them. And they may try to control your life. However, you have to be independent, as Buddha said. In Buddha's last message, he said, "Rely on yourself, rely on the Dharma, do not rely on anything else."

Make yourself the light. Make the dharma your light.

Buddha said in *The Longer Sutra*, "If you hear the Dharma and are 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."

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'll be a good friend of the Buddha. In other words, you're a Dharma friend of the Buddha. Your being becomes the same quality as the Buddha's life.

*You've got a friend
Ain't it good to know you've got a friend?
Ain't it good to know, ain't it good to know,
ain't it good to know
You've got a friend?*

*Oh yeah now, you've got a friend
Yeah baby, you've got a friend
Oh yeah, you've got a friend*

When we call the Buddha's name, Buddha is already front of us extending wisdom and compassion. And Buddha becomes the best friend for all of us.

I've got a friend. You've got a friend.

*Namu Amida Butsu,
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata*

SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE

Date: Sunday, March 17

Time: 10 am

Speaker: Rev. Koen Kikuchi

*Botamochi treats and otoki lunch
immediately following the service.*

お彼岸

今年ももうお彼岸の時期を迎えようとしております。お彼岸とは仏様のお覚りの世界、お心の世界をあらわした言葉です。私どもが日頃もち得る境地でもあります。お覚りの境地とは、涅槃、インドの古語でニルバーナと申し、火の吹き消された状態、すなわち煩惱（三毒、貪、瞋、痴）の火が完全に消えた、心静かな定まった境界を言うのです。私ども浄土真宗ではこの覚りの世界、法の世界をお浄土と申します。

お浄土とは大無量寿経の中で法蔵菩薩が建立された世界として説かれております、法蔵菩薩は苦しみ悩む人々をむかひいれ、目覚めた人、仏とする為にお浄土を建立したいと願い、その願いを成就され阿弥陀仏となられた。この物語をそのまま受け入れ、浄土は遠い西方の彼方にあり死後そこに生まれるのだと言われる方、また浄土とは精神的な世界であるという見解がありません。

金子大栄師は、浄土には3つの分類出来ると言われています。

- 1、お経典に書かれている浄土（西方浄土）
- 2、無量光明土とよばれる浄土（智慧と慈悲の象徴）
- 3、大涅槃界（親鸞聖人は浄土をこの様に表現されている。）

そしてまた金子師は、親鸞聖人のご理解を頂いて、お浄土はいのちのふるさとである。人生の依りどころなるところであり、いのちが帰るところであると言われました。

その通りだと思います。この人生を歩む時、仏法（仏様の智慧と慈悲）は私どもの依りどころであります。また死を迎えるとき、私どもは静寂なる大涅槃界、お浄土に還っていくのであります。

一般には、浄土往生とか、涅槃にはいるとか申しますと、亡くなることで、また浄土という死んでからゆく場所と考えておられる方が多いようです。しかし浄土とは私共が目指す、心の安定、安心して生活できる心持ちなのです。その心持ちを時代や仏教を受容した国々で色々な言葉で言い表わした事です。ニルバーナ（ネハン）悟り、正覚、彼岸、浄土このような言葉の数々は、ひとえに心の安定した、静寂なる境地を言わんとする言葉でありますし、仏法が働いて私どもが真実（本当の事）に目覚ませられる世界、苦悩から解放される世界を安楽、極楽、浄土（大涅槃界）と表現したのです。

親鸞聖人は、ご和讃の中で「有漏の穢身はかわらねど、心は浄土に遊ぶなり」と歌われております「煩悩悩みを持った身はかわらないけれど、法をいただき、法に信をおくその心は安心のし落ち着いておる」日々の生活は怒り、悲しみ、苦しみもあります。しかし仏法を聴聞し、お念仏をもうすことにより、さとの静かなる世界、お浄土を味わわせていただけるのです。

合掌
河和田記



HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT 2019 DOBO RETREAT PROGRAM DISTRICT DHARMA GATHERING “LET US DISCOVER THE JOY OF LIVING”

We wish to invite you to attend the 2019 District Dharma Gathering of Higashi Honganji Hawaii District. We will invite Rev. Patti Nakai as our guest speaker. The theme of the Gathering is “Coming Into Community: What Shinran Learned from Honen” Please send the application form below to the Hawaii District office or to the minister of your local temple.

Date:	Saturday, March 9, 2019
Time:	10:00 am — 3:00 pm
Speaker:	Rev. Patti Nakai
Location:	Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin 1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 Phone: (808) 531-1231, Fax: (808) 531-1231
Theme:	“Coming Into Community: What Shinran Learned from Honen”
Fee:	\$10.00 (payable to Higashi Honganji Hawaii District)

Rev. Patti Nakai

Rev. Nakai is a third-generation Japanese American born in Chicago. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from the University of Minnesota. While working in banking in Chicago, she joined the Buddhist Temple of Chicago and studied under Rev. Gyomay Kubose and Dr. Nobuo Haneda, who encouraged her to go to Japan to further her study of Buddhism. In 1987 she received a master’s degree in Shin Buddhist Studies from Otani University and was fully ordained (kyoshi) as a minister at Higashi Honganji in Kyoto. After serving eight years as part-time minister at the Higashi Honganji temple in Los Angeles mentored by Rev. Gyoko Saito, she returned to Chicago in 1995. She served as part-time Associate Minister and then became full-time Resident Minister in 2013. She participates in inter-faith events such as the Parliament of World’s Religions and is chairperson of the Chicago Japanese Buddhist Federation. She is married to Gary Nakai, no children



If you have any questions, please contact your local temple or the district office at:

Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Office
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: (808) 531-1231, Fax: (808) 531-1231, Email: admindaloha@higashihonganji.org

..... Detach Here

I would like to participate in the 2019 District Dharma Gathering.

Name

Temple



Our annual general membership meeting was immediately followed by our shinnenkai (New Year banquet), featuring lunchtime entertainment by the versatile Over the Hilltop Serenaders.

Membership meeting and New Year banquet held Feb. 24

All was quiet early Sunday morning at the Betsuin's Otani Center. Once the Sunday service was over, members, guests and friends began to file in and settle at the gaily decorated ti-leaf-and-bougainvillea-adorned tables. Quiet no more, it was time for our annual General Membership Meeting & Shinnenkai (New Year Banquet)!

The main agenda item for the business meeting was the election of our board of directors with staggered terms, as approved by membership at last year's meeting.

Elected to the Betsuin board by unanimous vote were: Jim Hirakawa, Debra Saiki, Karen Wong (1-year term); Jonathan Tani, Marian Tsuji (2-year term); Margaret Hamachi, Ed Nakano, Ken Saiki, Ray Uyema (3-year term).

Once the meeting was done, it was party time! The *Over the Hilltop Serenaders* started their music with their repertoire of jazz, Japanese pop, rock, ragtime and everything in between. It was also time to start the Chinese buffet, including pans of honey walnut shrimp, sweet & sour pork, gon lo mein with crispy gau gee and other New Mui Kwai specialties. Yum!

Meanwhile, folks made their Lucky Me! choices for a chance at winning a variety of donated prizes like bottles

of sake and wine, toys and even a new Instant Pot. And lucky number winners took home \$25 gift cards, quilts, fruits and many other useful prizes. No one went home empty-handed. Yay!

Then there were games, balloon art for kids up to age 90 and even *inoshishi*-making kits at each table in recognition of the new Year of the



Boar. In the packet were *araimo* for the body, toothpicks for legs and even a glue stick to attach eyes. Creative!

After the Sunday School children's performance, the temple's Dharma Hawaiians ukulele band played a set.

Capping the all-day fun, food and frolic was karaoke, both solo and less-threatening group singing.

Mahalo to all! See you next time!

Critic Roger Ebert gives ★★★★★ to *The Only Son*, our March film

The Only Son is a quintessential Ozu home drama on the relationship between a widowed mother (Choko Iida) and her son, Ryosuke (Shinichi

Himori). Encouraged by her son's ambitious elementary school teacher (Chishu Ryu), the mother slaves at a silk manufacturing factory, sacrificing personal and financial comfort and security, in order to support Ryosuke's education so that he may grow up to be a "great man." Thirteen years later, she travels to Tokyo to visit Ryosuke and finds that that his once seemingly bright future has become quashed by limited opportunity and personal obligations.

Alternately poignant, comical and bittersweet, the 1936 film, Ozu's first "talkie" (sound film), is a thoughtful exposition of his familiar themes of family estrangement and acceptance of life's inevitable disappointments.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., March 26, 87 min. Monochrome, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

一人息子 (ひとりむすこ)

早くに夫を亡くしたつねは、田畑を売り身を削って一人息子の良助を育てた。優秀な成績を誇る息子のため、つねは苦しい生活の中から進学のための資金を捻出。しかし13年後、東京で出世しているはずの良助は、夜学の教師となっており、妻子とともに貧しい生活を送っていた。しかも良助は教師をしていることも所帯を持っていることも、母親に知らせていなかった。上京したつねは厳しい現実を目の当たりにし、絶望感に包まれてしまう。

監督：小津安二郎、出演者：飯田蝶子、日守新一、笠智衆、公開：1936年、白黒、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：87分、3月26日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



Roger Ebert considered Yasujiro Ozu one of the top three or four film directors in the world and included *The Only Son* in his "Great Movies" list.



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MARCH

3/3	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service
3/3	Sun	12pm	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: <i>The Only Son</i> 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

APRIL

4/1	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class
4/7	Sun	10 am	HBC Buddha Day service Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu (no service at Betsuin)
4/8	Mon	12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch chat session Moanalua 99 Food Court
4/9	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
4/11	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
4/14	Sun	10 am	Hanamatsuri service
4/14	Sun	12pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese 仏教入門 (お話と座談会)
4/15	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra class
4/16	Tue	3 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
4/18	Thu	7 pm	Tea Time Fukuhara Conference Room
4/21	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki memorial service Sunday school
4/21	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
4/21	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding - Otani Center
4/23	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
4/23	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>The Departure</i> (2017)
4/28	Sun	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service & 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.