

和

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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

5
May 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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 Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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Editor: Ken Saiki

ON VIEWING BLACK HOLES

Rev. Steven Toyoshima

Though black holes have appeared in countless science fiction books, TV episodes and movies, up until now it could only be theorized what these massive space phenomena actually look like.

The gravitational pull of the massive collapsed stars is so great, even light is unable to escape. Because of this, it had been impossible to take a photograph of a black hole, even with our strongest telescopes.

On April 10, scientists with the Event Horizon Telescope project shocked the world by announcing that they had, for the first time, captured the image of a black hole. Even though the black hole being focused on is the size of 6.5 billion of our Suns, the extreme distance and between the Earth and the target made capturing a difficult task.

Katie Bouman, one of the scientists who developed the technology to produce the image, described it as the size of such a faraway object as being like us trying to see “an orange on the moon.” It was only through years of work by over two hundred scientists and seven giant radio telescopes scattered around the world that this feat could be completed.

Because two of the telescopes were located in Hawaii, the black hole was given a Hawaiian name. Chosen by Prof. Larry Kimura of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, the name *Powehi* is taken from 18th-century Hawaiian chants meaning “the adorned fathomless dark creation.”

In this incredible discovery, I can see a parallel with the way that we view ourselves and how we can live our lives in the Buddhist teachings. In his “December Fan” diary, the great teacher from our tradition, Manshi Kiyozawa writes about seeing the world through Microscopes and Telescopes.

“You should use a microscope to see the good of others and the evil of yourself. You will then be impressed with the great size of their good and your evil.

A telescope should be applied to others’ evil and your good. You will be surprised to see how small they are.

It may indeed be true that both the good and the evil in others and in ourselves are just like things seen through the lenses of the two instruments. Our feelings are apt to distort a real assessment of good and evil, right and wrong, and bring many errors.”

(cont’d on p. 2)



Rev. Steve Toyoshima

ON VIEWING BLACK HOLES (cont'd from p. 1)

The Three Poisons of Greed, Anger and Ignorance cloud our judgment in everyday life, which makes seeing the world clearly as difficult as spotting an orange sitting on the moon's surface with our naked eyes. Because of our egos, we see our mistakes and shortcomings as small and those of the people around us as large, as though we were viewing them with microscopes and telescopes.

In our minds, if someone's actions inconvenience us, it's a big deal. If we make a mistake, we make excuses and we think, "It's just a tiny thing...why even get upset at it?"

Similarly, how often do we take the helpful actions of those around us for granted, and get

“**Our feelings are apt to distort a real assessment of good and evil, right and wrong, and bring many errors.**”

upset when our own “good” deeds are not praised? This is our self-centered human nature at work.

Often, it is through difficult or unexpected experiences that open our eyes to the world around us *sono mama*, just as it is. A loss of a family member, trouble at work, health issues, many things can break us from our self-centered view and force us to confront the nature of our reality.

During these difficult times, we can realize the extent to which we are supported and guided by the people around us. When we see that we are not alone, when we see how we are connected to others, this is our Event Horizon Telescope array, revealing the reality that was impossible for us to see through our own efforts.

It is the reality that calls to us to be humble, and to live in appreciation. To me, this call is what “*Namu Amida Butsu*” is all about.

— Rev. Steve Toyoshima

誕生の意義

河和田記輪番

先月は花祭りでお釈迦様のご誕生をお祝いいたしました。またこの五月は浄土真宗の宗祖親鸞聖人のお誕生をお祝いし、親鸞聖人誕生会（たんじょうえ）法要がお勤めされます。また誕生会法要とともに新生児初参り法要も共にお勤めされます。この四月、五月は釈尊また親鸞聖人のご誕生をお祝いするとともに生れた意味を味合うことであります。

宗祖親鸞聖人はどのように釈尊のお誕生の意味をお考えになっていたのでしょうか。浄土真宗のお経である仏説無量寿経には『如来はこの上ない慈悲の心で迷いの世界をお哀れみなる。世にお出ましになるわけは、教えを説き述べて人々を救い、まことの利益を恵みたいとお考えになるからである。』と、釈尊は述べられています。釈尊は35歳にして真実を覚られ仏陀（覚者）となられた。そして慈悲の心をもって法を説かれる如来となられたのです。如来とは真実、そのままの法の世界からあらわれた方と言う意味です。なぜ如来となられたかと言えば人々を救い、真の利益を与えたいからだということです。これが、釈尊が如来となって世に出られる理由だとこのお経に説かれているのです。私どもを救いたいというのが如来の願いであり、そこに仏、如来がこの世に生まれる意義があるということです。ですから釈尊の誕生は私どもを苦悩の存在より救う為にお生まれになったのです。

親鸞聖人はこの仏説無量寿経をより深く読まれ、『釈尊がこの世にお出ましになった理由は阿弥陀仏の本願海を説くためであった。』と正信偈の中でいわれています。そしてまた『五劫という永い間思惟された阿弥陀仏の本願はひとえに親鸞一人の為であった。』と深くその慈悲のお心を頂き感謝しておられます。親鸞聖人がお生まれになった意味は弥陀の本願に出会い、その意味を聞いてゆくことだったのです。阿弥陀仏の本願とは苦悩する人間を救いたいという、私どもにかけられている願いなのです。

私どもは一人一人異なった生活を営んでいます。しかし仏法の前に立つ時私どもは仏の願いと教えを聞き生活をする者となります。そして法の前に頭を下げ、真摯に教えに耳を傾けて生きつつ、謙虚でダイナミックな生活が始まるのです。仏法を聞き続けることによりこのような生き生きとした生活を送ることが出来る事です。したがって私どもの誕生の意義とは、お念仏の教えに出会い、謙虚にまた柔軟に、そして力づくよくに生きることだと言えます。

合掌
河和田記

BON DANCE PRACTICE

at

Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin



This year's Bon Dance at Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin is **July 12-13th**, so we are kicking off a weekly practice starting this May! We will be practicing dances from this year's playlist, as well as introducing several 'Obon Hopper' favorites from Southern California. Obon dance practice is a perfect chance to learn new dances, meet other bon dance fans and get an aerobic workout all at the same time! Bring your friends and family down on Wednesday nights and let's *odorimasho!*

Bon dance practice

Free of charge, open to the public.

Bring tenegui towels, uchiwa fans if you have them!

Schedule:

Every Wednesday in May (except for May 29th) 6 pm-7 pm

Every Wednesday in June
6 pm-7 pm

Location:

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Bon Dance schedule

July 6th Kaneohe Bon Dance

July 12-13th Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin) Bon Dance

July 19-20th Waimea Higashi Hongwanji Bon Dance

July 26-27th Palolo Higashi Hongwanji Bon Dance

August 10 Hilo Higashi Hongwanji Bon Dance



Dharma Hawaiians at HBC Buddha Day. The group played along with several Honpa Hongwanji musicians on April 7 during the after-service lunch. Steven Toyoshima photo

Bon dance practice sessions scheduled to start in May

“The world’s favorite season is the Spring. All things seem possible in May.” —Edwin Way Teale

ALL things possible? Even learning to bon dance, after a lifetime of just watching, and going to temples in the middle of summer just to eat?

For anyone who has wanted to join in the fun people seem to be having in the lively bon dance circle, here’s your chance! You get to practice with other learners in the relative privacy of Otani Center, instead in front of the throng of onlookers at the actual bon dance.

Temple member Marion Kanemori, leader of the Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai, who also happens to be a licensed *nihonbuyo* classical Japanese dance instructor, has agreed to help budding bon dancers learn the basic bon dances, as well as new songs on this year’s playlist. It’s a great chance to expand your repertoire.

The main goal is to boost your confidence level so that you can join in on any dance, once you watch for a bit. You may even end up being a “dancin’ fool,” itching to elbow your way in to the inner circle!

You’re all welcome to join in our bon dance practice sessions every Wednesday evening in May and June (except May 29) from 6 to 7 pm.

It’s fun, gentle aerobic exercise, an opportunity to meet new people and best of all, it’s free!

Look for us at the HBC tent at the Book & Music Festival May 5

If you happen to hear strains of the melodic chanting of *Shoshinge*, followed by the singing of *Shinshu Shuka*, *In Lumbini’s Garden* and *Ondokusan* to ukulele accompaniment at the Annual Book & Music Festival, you’ll know that others from the Higashi Hongwanji ohana are close at hand.

On Sunday, May 5, our ministers will be doing double-duty, helping with book sales at the Hawaii Buddhist Council tent and chanting, starting at 3 pm. The Dharma Hawaiians ukulele ensemble will follow at 3:30 pm.

You’ll find the HBC booth tucked in a row of tents on the Honolulu Hale Civic Grounds mauka walkway, near the Kristi Yamaguchi Reading Center.

The festival, which promises fun for the whole family, runs from 10 am to 5 pm during the May 4-5 weekend. Admission and parking at the municipal parking garage (access from Beretania St.) is free.

May “Memorial Day” tribute film is a tale of courage and tenacity

Memorial Day is a special day set aside in May to remember those who lost their lives as a result of war. Our May “war movies” in the past have featured some of our best films, including Kon Ichikawa’s epic *The Burmese Harp* and *Fires on the Plain*, the much-acclaimed *Letters from Iwo Jima* and the story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, *Go For Broke!*, which was even nominated for an Academy Award.

For this Memorial Day, we’ve selected the 2011 movie, *Oba: The Last Samurai*. (The originally scheduled *There Was a Father* will be shown in June.) Based on a true story by U.S. Marine Don Jones, *Oba* gives us a frontline view of the brutality of war, showing the struggles between honor and reason through the eyes of a geography teacher who was a draftee into the Imperial Army.

During the Battle of Saipan in 1944, Imperial Japanese Army Captain Sakae Ōba (Yutaka Takenouchi) and a

handful of survivors retreat into the jungle and begin a guerrilla-style war, using Mount Tapochau as a base due to its natural defensive position overlooking every possible approach. With only 47 soldiers protecting 200 civilians against 45,000 U.S. troops, Oba—nicknamed “the Fox” by the Americans due to his cunning strategy—continues to resist, despite cessation of hostilities.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., May 28, 128 min. Directed by Hideyuki Hirayama. Also stars Mao Inoue, Toshiaki Karasawa and Takayuki Yamada. Color, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

太平洋の奇跡 – フォックスと呼ばれた男 (たいへいようのきせき—フォックスとよばれたおとこ)

太平洋戦争において激戦が繰り広げられたサイパン島で、わずか47人の兵で45,000人もの米軍を巧みな戦略で翻弄し、米兵らから畏敬の念を込めて「フォ



クス」と呼ばれた実在の大場栄・陸軍大尉 (竹野内豊)。タッポーチヨ山を拠点とした大場とその部隊が、1945年8月のポツダム宣言受諾以降も、その事実を知らずに戦い続けた実話を日米双方から描

原作：ドン・ジョーンズ、監督：平山秀幸、出演者：唐沢寿明、井上真央、山田孝之、公開：2011年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：128分、5月28日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

Tanjo-e Service

In celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin

Hatsumairi Ceremony

Held in conjunction with Tanjo-e Service

Sunday May 19, 2019 10:00 am

English Message : Rev. Steven Toyoshima



親鸞聖人誕生会 新生児初参り法要

2019年5月19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

Parents' Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

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

May Sunday Services

Sunday services are a regular occurrence among most Buddhist temples in Hawaii. Additionally, temples may hold Sunday services for special occasions, such as Ohigan, Nirvana Day and shōtsuki memorials.

The month of May is unique at our Betsuin in that we observe a special occasion on every Sunday. May is the only month when we have no “regular Sunday service” on our schedule.

Betsuin May Sunday services

5/5: Shōtsuki memorial service

Message: Rinban Kawawata

5/12: Mother’s Day family service

Message: Lay speaker

5/19: Tanjō-e/ Hatsumairi service (Shinran Shōnin’s birthday & Child’s “First Visit” service)

Japanese: Rinban Kawawata
English: Rev. Toyoshima

5/26: All Wars memorial service

Message: Rev. Toyoshima

Shōtsuki memorial service

A Sunday is set aside each month for a shōtsuki memorial service, when we remember loved ones we’ve lost during that month in a past year.

The service brings family members together to pay tribute to those who came before us—our parents, grandparents and others—whom we thank for the wonderful gift of life. If it weren’t for them, we wouldn’t even exist!

As we listen to the dharma together, we recall memories of our loved ones and acknowledge their influence on our lives.

Mother’s Day family service

The second Sunday in May is celebrated as Mother’s Day, when we hold our Mother’s Day family service.

The first Mother’s Day was observed in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St. Andrew’s Methodist Church in

Grafton, West Virginia. Mother’s Day actually began with a memorial service.

We honor the mothers of the family and motherhood, and the influence of mothers in society. Families often will give mothers a “day off” from cooking and other household chores. Betsuin tradition calls for the men to prepare the after-service refreshments...and clean up afterwards, too.

Shinran Shōnin’s birthday service/ Hatsumairi service

We take the opportunity of *Tanjo-e* to reflect on Shinran Shōnin’s birth and, at the same time, think about the meaning of our own birth.

We express our respect and thanks to our founder, who sought the way of the truth with his entire being and left the most important teachings for us.

Hatsumairi is a ceremony for infants and children up to six years of age presented initially before the Buddha, signifying the foundation towards a spiritual life. To help us prepare the keepsake certificate, submitting the application in advance would be appreciated. Participating children will also receive *onenju* from our head temple in Kyoto.

All Wars memorial service

Placing flowers on soldiers’ graves has been a common practice since ancient times. After World War II, “Decoration Day” for remembering Civil War and World War I casualties became known as “Memorial Day.”

Memorial Day is now a federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May to remember the people who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces.

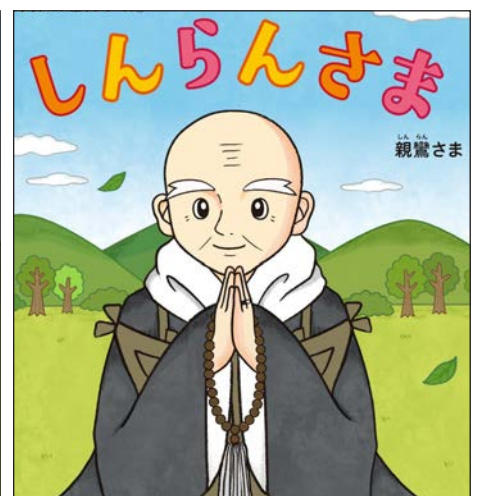
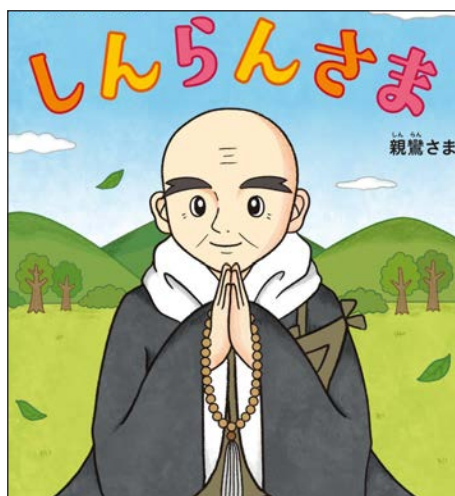
On that day, the U.S. flag is raised, then lowered to half-staff, in memory of the more than one million men and women who lost their lives while in service to their country. At noon the flag is then raised to full-staff and remains there for the rest of the day as a tribute to the living.

Once a war starts, it’s not only soldiers who get killed. Civilians end up as innocent “collateral damage,” too. At the Betsuin All Wars memorial service, we remember all people—military and civilian—who died as a result of past wars.

All our special services start at 10 am. We hope you’ll be able to take part on these days of remembrance.

— Ken Saiki

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCES?



See if you can spot the 10 differences between the two illustrations of Shinran Shōnin. From the Shinshu Anime E-hon series: *Shinran-sama*, illustrated by Akio Tanaka, available at the Honzan bookstore and at other resellers such as cdjapan.co.jp.



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MAY

5/1	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Otani Center
5/5	Sun 10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service (<i>Kawawata</i>)
5/5	Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese 仏教入門 (お話と座談会)
5/6	Mon 10 am	Meditation Sutra class
5/8	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Otani Center
5/9	Thu 7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
5/12	Sun 10 am	Mother's Day family service (<i>lay speaker</i>)
5/13	Mon 12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch chat session
5/14	Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
5/15	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Otani Center
5/16	Thu 7 pm	Tea Time Fukuhara Conference Room
5/19	Sun 10 am	Shinran Shōnin's birthday service - 誕生会 (<i>E: Rev. Toyoshima/J: Rinban Kawawata</i>)
5/19	Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
5/19	Sun 12 pm	Art of Paper Folding - Ōtani Center
5/21	Tue 7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
5/22	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Ōtani Center
5/26	Sun 10 am	All Wars Memorial service (<i>Toyoshima</i>)
5/28	Tue 10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
5/28	Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
5/28	Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: Ōba: The Last Samurai (2011) 太平洋の奇跡 - フォックスと呼ばれた男

JUNE

6/2	Sun 10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service (<i>Kawawata</i>)
6/2	Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese
6/3	Mon 10 am	Meditation Sutra class
6/5	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Ōtani Center
6/9	Sun 10 am	Betsuin Local Gathering (<i>Sawada</i>)
6/10	Mon 12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch chat session
6/11	Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/12	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Ōtani Center
6/13	Thu 7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class-Engllish
6/16	Sun 10 am	Father's Day family service (<i>lay speaker</i>)
6/16	Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
6/16	Sun 12 pm	Art of Paper Folding - Ōtani Center
6/17	Mon 10 am	Meditation Sutra class
6/18	Tue 7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
6/19	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Ōtani Center
6/20	Thu 7 pm	Tea Time Fukuhara Conference Room
6/23	Sun 10 am	Sunday service (<i>Kawawata</i>)
6/23	Sun 12 pm	Omigaki altar accessories polishing
6/25	Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/25	Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: There Was a Father (1942)
6/26	Wed 6 pm	Bon dance practice - Ōtani Center
6/28	Fri 10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
6/30	Sun 10 am	Service & Ehime Maru Mem. cleaning Kakaako Waterfront Pk picnic (<i>Toyoshima</i>)

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.