

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

7
July 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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Resident Minister: Steven Toyoshima
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 Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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



REFLECTING ON OBON

Rev. Steven Toyoshima

Obon! Just hearing this one word alone is enough to conjure up vivid memories of the smell of chicken teriyaki grilling, the thunderous sound of the taiko drums cutting through the cool air of a summer night and the sight of people of all ages dancing around a yagura tower. On the mainland and in Japan I have been fortunate to experience the unique ways that Obon is observed. Now in Hawaii, I am looking forward to participating in Obon, Hawaiian style.

In Southern California, Obon is an all-day affair that often includes the temple's rummage sale, bake sale, vegetable and plant sale, as well as hours of live entertainment by local martial arts and music groups. Obon for most temples in Los Angeles is the main fundraiser for the year, so there is always plenty of attention put into making each one a memorable and unique event.

In Japan, Obon is a time for Buddhists to return to their hometowns and clean the family gravestones. Summer festivals are generally held by local towns and Shinto shrines. Instead of visiting the temple for a Bon Service, ministers make house calls to perform memorial services in front of the member's home altar.

During a summer vacation temple homestay last year in Takayama, I went door to door to chant sutras at over 20 households over a busy three-day period. My host, Rev. Hirano, stressed that this was an important way to meet the many members of the temple, and to build relationships between the families and the temple over the years.

Obon is similar to the *natsu matsuri* (summer festivals) that are held in Japan and the United States. More than the dancing and tasty foods, Obon is a time to remember the loved ones in our lives who have passed away. For those who have just recently lost a family member, there is always a *Hatsubon* (first memorial) service that conducted at the beginning of the festival. I will never forget the first time I heard the ringing of the bell as the ministers led the procession of people carrying a candle for someone they had lost that year. The people walking were not strangers but members I saw often at Sunday services. It brought the reality of impermanence right to the front of my mind. I could not yet understand any of the chanting or ritual at that time, but I knew that it was something emotional and important for the families who had gathered to listen. It is the same emotion I have felt from the families that I have met during these first funeral and memorial services I have conducted as a minister here in Hawaii.

This emotion I think is captured perfectly in the 2007 July Buddhist Temple of Chicago Bulletin article written by Rev. Patti Nakai, who spoke here in Hawaii not long before I arrived this Spring:

*In a way our (departed) loved ones are like the stars in the night sky,
far out of reach from our grasping self-interest but the shining essence*

(cont'd on p. 2)



Rev. Steve Toyoshima

REFLECTING ON OBON (cont'd from p. 1)

of their karma. All that they thought, said and did manages to sparkle in the vast murkiness of our heart/mind. At Obon time we are supposed to be honoring our loved ones, but no matter what great deeds we can do or large donations we make, it can't come close to ever repaying them for the thoughts, words and acts of wisdom and compassion that they gave us and continue to give us.

All we can do is look up to those stars and let them inspire us. At the Bon Odori, under the summer night sky, we dance with nembutsu—*Namu Amida Butsu*—gratefulness for all the lives that are a part of our lives. We dance because of what we receive from those myriad lives although we can't help thinking

particularly of our loved ones. We dance under the stars, with our stars and with all the stars.

This year, while dancing under those stars I will be thinking of my grandparents, uncles and aunts, and temple friends back in Los Angeles that had such an impact on my life.

I will be thinking of those families I met for the first time during the services I have been fortunate enough to officiate here in Hawaii.

I will be thinking of the many more people that I will be meeting for the first time as I start out on this road of being a Higashi Hongwanji minister.

I am glad to be here, and glad you are here, too. *Namu Amida Butsu.*

— Rev. Steve Toyoshima

Higashi Hongwanji Obon Festival Guide

Here's your handy-dandy guide to everything you need to know about Higashi Hongwanji's 2019 bon festival, all in one place:

WHEN: Friday, July 12, 5:30 pm - 10 pm
Saturday, July 13, 5:30 pm - 10 pm

WHERE: Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
1685 Alaneo St., corner N. Kuakini St.
(one block ewa of Liliha Bakery)



PARKING: In addition to street parking, ample free parking is available at **Lanakila Elementary School**, across the street from the temple, from 4:30 pm. Entrance on Alaneo St., near the N. Kuakini St. corner. Additional secured parking is available at **Lanakila Senior Center** on

Lanakila St., one block ewa, from 5 pm. Free shuttle service from Lanakila Senior Center starts at 6 pm, last shuttle back leaves the temple at 10 pm.

DISABILITY PARKING: Two designated stalls available in the mauka temple parking lot.

BUS ACCESS: #13 bus - Stop 57/58, Liliha/Kuakini
#2 bus - Stop 68, School/Alaneo
Stop 180, School/Momolio

MINYO PERFORMANCE: Harada NaoAtsusa Kai
Saturday, 6 - 6:30 pm at yagura

MANTO-E SERVICE & CANDLE PROCESSION: Friday & Saturday, 6:30 pm at the yagura. All can participate.

ALL BOOTHS OPEN: 5:30 pm, closing times vary

BETSUIN BOOTH: Bon dance headquarters for volunteer check-in, lost & found and general information. Bon dance towels and fans, books and religion literature, t-shirts, happi, obon donations. Cash or credit card.

KIDDIES CORNER: Fish pond, daruma-otoshi, jan-ken-po, hachimaki making, tic-tac-toe, paper art in Otani Center.

NOMI-NO-ICHIBA FLEA MARKET: Bargains on new and gently used obi, kimono, yukata and other treasures in Otani Center. Cash or credit card.

HOMEGROWN BOOTH: Member specialties, including Margaret's Toll-House cookies, chichi dango, Koolau baked goods, patch quilts, succulent and airplant arrangements.

KAUPILI-ALOHA BOOTH: Gold leaf box, altar, Japanese dolls, yukata bags and other exclusive Kyoto items you won't find anywhere else locally.

HIGASHI GOURMET SPECIALTIES: Spam musubi, BBQ sticks, yakitori, bento, curry rice bowl, vegetarian curry rice bowl, chili rice bowl, vegetarian chili rice bowl, chili rice with frank plate, inari somen, zenzai, ramune soft drink, monaka ice cream. Cash or credit card.



SUPERB SUSHI: Futomaki/inari tray, spicy tuna/reverse California roll tray, poke bowl.

WAIPAHU H.S. DIAMONDS BASEBALL: Andagi, anda-dog, Okinawa yakisoba

SHIMAZU SHAVE ICE: Local favorite, with wide selection of flavors and toppings.

BON DANCING: Starts at 7 pm, both live and recorded music. Participating bon dance clubs include the Honolulu Fukushima Bon Dance Club, Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai and Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko Hawaii. Bon dancing ends at 10 pm.

BON DANCE CLUB HOSPITALITY ROOM: Conference room in the main temple building.

REST ROOMS: Otani Center and main temple building.

QUESTIONS? For more information, please call 531-9088 or email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
and its Board of Directors
cordially invite you to attend the

Obon Service and Hatsu Bon Service

to be held on Sunday, July 21, 2019
at 10:00 a.m.

at Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu

English sermon: Rev. Steven Toyoshima
Japanese sermon: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
Otoki refreshments following the service.

The Obon Service is held to remember
our ancestors and to celebrate our life,
and is one of the year's most important
observances. Please join us to resolve
to deepen our understanding of Buddhism.

Gassho,
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
Kenneth T. Saiki, President

ご招待状

初夏の候、みなさまにおかれましてはお元気
にお過ごしのことと存じます。さて今年もお盆
の季節がやってまいりました。本年は左記の
如くお盆法要並びに初盆法要を厳修いたしま
すのでご案内申しあげます。

記

お盆／初盆法要

日時 2019年7月21日(日)午前10時

場所 東本願寺ハワイ別院

1685アラネオ ・ ホノルル

法話(英語)豊島ステイブン 開教使

法話(日本語)輪番 河和田賢潤開

以上の予定となっております。なお法要後、お齋
の接待がございます。どうぞご家族お揃いで法
要にお参りください。

合掌

輪番 河和田賢淳

理事長 佐伯ケネス

The Manto-e Tradition



Long ago in India, wherever the Buddha delivered a sermon, the sangha—those who came to listen—would each light a candle. The sangha became so numerous that on these occasions, the lights came to be called *Manto*, or 10,000 lights.

In Japan the tradition of Manto-e was started about 1,200 years ago during the reign of Emperor Shomu. Once a year 10,000 lights were lit in honor of the Buddha around the Todaiji Temple in Nara.

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii celebrates the tradition of the Manto-e at our bon dance. This year our Manto-e service will be held at 6:30 pm on Fri., July 12 and Sat., July 13 at the foot of the yagura.

With your donation of \$25 for each lantern you may wish to offer in memory of a departed relative or friend, we will write his or her name, along with your name as the donor, on a small tablet to be hung from each lantern. The custom-made lanterns from Japan can be picked up and are yours to keep after the bon dance.

MANTO-E LANTERN ORDER • 万灯会提灯申込書 (\$25 per lantern donation)

Here's my donation of \$ _____ for _____ lanterns in memory of:

Name 名前

If known, Dharma name 法名

Donor name 寄付者名

Phone 電話

Please make check payable to **Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii** • 1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817 • ☎ 531-9088



Temple volunteers cheerfully clean the Ehime Maru Memorial before the June 30 Sunday service at Kakaako Waterfront Park. Rev. Steve Toyoshima gave a brief dharma message under the shoreline pavilion before everyone enjoyed a potluck lunch of chicken, potato & veggie salads, meatballs, Spam, Portuguese sausage, tsukemono and desserts.

Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District summer bon dance schedules

As you know, our Betsuin bon dance is scheduled for the weekend of July 12 and 13. If you have an opportunity to do so, please don't forget to drop by and/or volunteer your services at our sister Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District temples:

Saturday, July 6 at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji: 6:30 - 10 pm; food booths open 5:30 pm; service 6 pm. Parking available at Ben Parker Elementary School. 45-520 Kealahala Rd., Ph. 247-2661.

Friday, July 19 & Saturday, July 20 at Waimea Higashi Hongwanji: service 6 pm. 9554 Kaunualii Hwy, Waimea, Kauai. Ph. 634-8181.

Friday, July 26 & Saturday, July 27 at Palolo Hongwanji: 6:30 - 9:30 pm; food booths open 5:30 pm, service 6 pm. Parking at Sacred Hearts Academy with shuttle service from 5:30 - 10 pm. 1641 Palolo Ave., Ph. 732-1491.

Saturday, Aug. 10 at Hilo Higashi Hongwanji: Hatsubon service 6 pm, bon dancing 7pm, 216 Mohouli St., Hilo on the Big Island, Ph. 935-8968.

Bon service at Makiki cemetery remembers contract immigrants

Higashi Hongwanji Bishop Kenjun Kawawata is scheduled to co-officiate the 33rd annual Kanyaku Imin bon service with Bishop Eric Matsumoto of Honpa Hongwanji at Makiki cemetery on Sat., July 13, starting at 9 am. The public is invited.

On this occasion of obon, we pause to pay tribute to the 289 pioneers with no known descendants who are buried in a common grave beneath the memorial.

After a fateful tragedy, a test of forgiveness in July's Cold Bloom

A woman tries to forgive and forget in the face of tragedy in the 2013 film, *Cold Bloom*, Director Atsushi Funahashi's 4th movie selected to screen at a prestigious "Big Three" film festival (Cannes, Venice and Berlin).

The story contrasts destruction with natural beauty in Hitachi City on the coast of Ibaraki Prefecture, famous for its cherry blossoms. After the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami earthquake disaster, Shiori (Asami Usuda), who works in a metal-stamping shop, loses her husband, Kenji (Yo Takahashi), in a

fatal accident caused by Takumi (Takahiro Miura), a trainee. The incident leaves Shiori devastated and the shop hanging by a thread. Takumi is determined to apologize and make amends but is constantly rejected by Shiori. The cherry blossoms are in full bloom. What destiny lies in store for this fateful encounter?

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., July 23, 119 min. Color, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

桜並木の満開の下に (さくらなみきのまんかいのしたに)

大震災の後、茨城県日立市のプレス工場で働く女性しおり (臼田あさ美)。平凡な日常だが、同僚であり夫である研次けんじ (高橋洋) と幸福な日々を送っていた。

しかし、ある日、作業中の事故で最愛の夫を亡くしてしまう。事故を引き起こしたのは、新入社員の工たくみ (三浦貴大)。平和な日々を奪われ、心から工を憎む菜と、赦しを乞い続ける工。決して交わるはずのない境遇におかれた2人だったが、次第にお互いを理解する気持ちが芽生えていく...

そして季節はうつろい、桜の花が満開となる春。さまざまな葛藤をかかえ、理不尽な運命に翻弄された迷える男女の淡い恋は、一体どんな結末を迎えるのか?

監督：船橋淳、公開：2013年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：119分、7月23日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



the **Y**Buddhism, the **Y**ounger generation & **E**ngaging the world

A PANEL DISCUSSION • PUBLIC INVITED

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019, 6:30 - 8 PM
HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

Buddhism in Hawaii is facing a major transition as young people are moving away from traditional and organized Buddhism and more toward a general “spirituality”; a spirituality that actively supports their personal needs and helps them find meaning through engagement with the world.

The Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB) is interested in this transition and wants to explore the lives and motivations of young people ages 25-45. The panel will ask young adults to tell their story, explain why and how they were attracted to Buddhism and what keeps them involved.

You are invited to join this enlightening evening of discussion and fellowship. Questions? Contact Margery Hamai, HAIB president, at margeryhamai@gmail.com.

BUDDHISM, THE YOUNGER GENERATION & ENGAGING THE WORLD

Thurs., July 18, 6:30 - 8 pm

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii main hall
1685 Alaneo St., corner N. Kuakini St.

Panel moderator: Nikos Leverenz has been a dharma practitioner since 2009. He served on the board of Sacramento Buddhist Meditation Group for four years. He currently practices with the Honolulu Diamond Sangha and works in the non-profit sector.



Steven Toyoshima is a fourth-generation Japanese-American born in Los Angeles. After two years of study in Japan and graduating from the Otani Seminary in Yamashina, Japan, Steven was assigned to be a minister at Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in April 2019.



Devon Hase coaches meditators on the 10% Happier app, assists retreats at Insight Meditation Society & Spirit Rock and leads mindfulness and meditation retreats with her husband, Craig. Her forthcoming book about ethics for millennials will be released by Shambhala Publications in April 2020.



Noah Pomeroy is an oceanographer and a UCLA-trained mindfulness facilitator and a Certified Mindfulness Teacher. Noah offers introductory classes in mindfulness and volunteers at the Halawa Correctional Facility as part of the prison dharma program.



Caroline Kunitake is an IT Disaster Recover Planner. Her family church is the Kona Honpa Hongwanji Mission on the Big Island. She is not a member of any formal organization but identifies her religion as Buddhist and is involved in community and international volunteering.



Trey Fenton is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, specializing in working with transgender individuals. He is also a Buddhist meditation practitioner.



Here Is Happi-ness...

...and it's just in time for bon dance season: the official Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii happi coat!

Made of lightweight cotton, the cool, black one-size-fits-all *happi* features a white stylized Hokusai-inspired wave design, front and back. Both lapels on the front have Higashi Hongwanji screened in kanji, while the back has a white Higashi Hongwanji crest contrasted on a red circle as shown in the inset illustration on the left.

This exclusive *happi* is sure to make you happy and will be available at the Betsuin booth at the bon dance, while supplies last, for a \$50 donation. Cash, check or credit card.

World Dobo Gathering 2020

April 20th-22nd in Kyoto, Japan

第十三回



世界同朋大会

The 13th World Dobo Gathering will be held at the Higashi Honganji head temple in Kyoto, Japan. These Dobo Gatherings are special opportunities once every few years to meet members and ministers from around the world as well as to deepen our appreciation of Jodo Shinshu.

Two tour packages are being planned, ***Details on the travel package pricing and application forms will be released soon so if you are interested in attending the Dobo Gathering in 2020, please contact the Hawaii District Office (contact info below).***

Pilgrimage and Hot Spring Resort Tour

Apr. 18 Departure from Hawaii.
Apr. 19 Arrive at Kansai Airport.
Stay overnight at hotel.
Apr. 20 World Dobo Gathering.
Stay overnight at Dobo Retreat Center.*
Apr. 21 World Dobo Gathering.
Stay overnight at Dobo Retreat Center.*
Apr. 22 World Dobo Gathering.
Banquet and Entertainment.
Stay overnight at hotel.

4/23-25 Pilgrimage Tour by bus, with overnight stay at hotels

Apr. 23 Pilgrimage Tour. (Hokuriku)
Apr. 24 Pilgrimage Tour. (Joetsu)
Apr. 25 Pilgrimage Tour. (Kanto)
Stay overnight at Hotel
Apr. 26 Pilgrimage Tour. (Kanto)
Departure from Narita Airport.
Arrive in Hawaii.

*As an alternative to sleeping at Retreat Ctr.,
offsite Western-style hotel rooms available

Dobo Basic Tour

Apr. 18 Departure from Hawaii.
Apr. 19 Arrive at Kansai Airport.
Stay overnight at hotel.
Apr. 20 World Dobo Gathering.
Stay overnight at Dobo Retreat Center.*
Apr. 21 World Dobo Gathering.
Stay overnight at Dobo Retreat Center.*
Apr. 22 World Dobo Gathering.
Banquet and Entertainment.
Stay overnight at hotel.
Apr. 23 Departure from Kansai Airport.
Arrive in Hawaii. (Return date and airport can
be changed for those wishing to extend their
stay.)

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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JULY

7/1	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra study class
7/6	Sat	5:30 pm	Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji bon dance
7/7	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service (Kawawata)
7/7	Sun	12pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese
7/8	Mon	12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch at Moanalua 99 Food Court
7/9	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/11	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
7/12	Fri	5:30 pm	Manto-e service/Betsuin bon festival
7/13	Sat	5:30 pm	Manto-e service/Betsuin bon festival
7/14	Sun	9 am	Bon dance cleanup No Sunday service at Betsuin
7/15	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra study class
7/16	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
7/18	Thu	6:30 pm	HAIB panel discussion - Main hall
7/21	Sun	10 am	Hatsubon service (日本語: 河和田輪番) (English: Rev. Toyoshima)
7/21	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
7/23	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/23	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Cold Bloom</i> (2014)
7/26	Fri	6:30 pm	Palolo Hongwanji bon dance
7/27	Sat	6:30 pm	Palolo Hongwanji bon dance
7/28	Sun	10 am	Sunday service and Shinran Shōnin memorial service (Toyoshima)

AUGUST

8/4	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service (Kawawata)
8/4	Sun	12pm	Basic Buddhism discussion in Japanese 仏教入門 (お話と座談会) Fukuhara Conference Room
8/5	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra study class
8/8	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
8/11	Sun	10 am	Sunday service (Toyoshima)
8/11	Sun	12 pm	Buddhism 101 workshop (English)
8/12	Mon	12 pm	99 Lunch Bunch at Moanalua 99 Food Court
8/13	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
8/15	Thu	7 pm	Dharma potluck
8/18	Sun	10 am	Sunday service (Kawawata)
8/18	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
8/18	Sun	12 pm	The Art of Paper Folding class Otani Center
8/19	Mon	10 am	Meditation Sutra study class
8/20	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
8/25	Sun	10 am	Sunday service (Toyoshima)
8/27	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
8/27	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Good Morning</i> (1959) Fukuhara Conference Room
8/28	Wed	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.