

# 和

‘WA’  
harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

December 2019  
**12**

### 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

Head Minister: Kenjun Kawawata  
Resident Minister: Steven Toyoshima  
Minister: Hidesato Kita  
Minister: Koen Kikuchi

President: Kenneth Saiki  
Secretary: Marian Tsuji  
Treasurer: Karen Wong

1685 Alaneo Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Tel: (808) 531-9088  
Fax: (808) 531-3265

Email: [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org)  
Website: [betsuin.hhbt-hi.org](http://betsuin.hhbt-hi.org)

 [Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii](https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMissionofHawaii)

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



Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

**S**hakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, was born as a prince of the Shakya clan to King Suddhodan and Queen Maya in India in the 5th or 6th century BCE.

Shakyamuni Buddha's journey to his Bodhi Day awakening was a long one. The journey started when he saw the realities of this world. Upon stepping out from his palace where he led a sheltered life, he saw the realities of human life, such as sickness, aging and death, for the first time.

He also happened to observe a young monk who was seeking the way of life and cause of human suffering. The sight was so vivid and inspiring for Shakyamuni that he decided he wanted to spend his life like the young monk.



Rinban Ken Kawawata

At that time Shakyamuni established a wish called *Bodhicitta*, the aspiration to be an awakened person. He wished to have wisdom and a way of liberation from human sufferings. He wanted to live fully and freely, and did not want to live his life in vain.

Shakyamuni was always thinking about suffering and how to find true peace of mind. He knew that materialistic things, wealth and power could not lead him to spiritual peace.

He left his palace home when he was 29. For six years he searched for a way to transcend all human suffering. At the time, people believed ascetic practices led to a pure mind and pure spirit, which in turn led to Nirvana. Shakyamuni visited many teachers of ascetic practices to learn methods to attain the state of mind that he wished to achieve, but was not successful.

One day he washed his body, received a food offering and sat under the Bodhi tree for meditation. He knew he had to reconsider the way to attain peace of mind. It is said that in the early morning of December 8, after days of meditation, he saw a morning star. At last, at the age of 35, he awakened to the truth, attaining enlightenment.

He shouted, "Oh Ignorance!" He came upon the discovery that the cause of human suffering was Ignorance. He found ignorance in himself.

(cont'd on p. 2)

## BODHI DAY SERVICES

### Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC) Bodhi Day service

Sunday, December 8 starting at 9:30 am

Guest speaker: Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii • 1727 Pali Hwy • Honolulu

### Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Bodhi Day service

Sunday, December 15 starting at 10 am

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii • 1685 Alaneo St • Honolulu

## A JOURNEY TO ENLIGHTENMENT (cont'd from p. 1)

What is ignorance? Ignorance is when we do not know the truth, or even though aware of the truth, we ignore it. Then what is truth to us? It's the truth of impermanence. Impermanence means our aging, sickness, and death. Shakyamuni then realized human life has many difficulties.

But in our daily lives we don't want to think this way. We always try to avoid or escape the harsh reality and truth. We always wish to be young and healthy. Buddha, too, wished to be young and healthy, and to live without changes. In shouting "Oh, Ignorance!" he shouted to himself that he was ignorant. This was the real understanding of himself and truth. In realizing he lived in a world of impermanence, he personified impermanence. He accepted his life as it was. From that discovery, he started a new life and was reborn into a new world.

After his awakening, he taught the dharma for 45 years, until he died at age of 80. He became a Buddha who shares the Dharma with others and learns together with others. He showed us the way of life.

It is said there are 84,000 teachings in Buddhism. But the 84,000 teachings are not different; he taught the Dharma from his realization. The contents of the 84,000 teachings are really the same, but conditions and people are different. That is why there are many teachings in Buddhism.

The main goal of Buddhism, however, is the same, becoming a Bodhisattva, becoming an awakened one, a person who awakens to his or her true self, and to become a person who lives in daily life with the settled mind. Shakyamuni's understanding of self was a revolutionary thought. With that revelation, he broke the traditional thought of Brahmanism.

Before Buddhism, the wish after was that the soul would remain and become one with Brahman, the Indian god. People wanted their soul to be eternal and become one with this god.

But Buddha saw that this world is impermanent, so there is nothing eternal. Therefore, there is no eternal self, described as *anātman* in Sanscrit or *anattā* in Pali, or "non-self," "selflessness." This thought of selflessness is still unique, as only in Buddhism we do not talk about heaven or a next life after death.

We always wish for a happy life and an eternal life, even though we know that some day we have to die. The desire of eternal life is the human ego. Shakyamuni broke his ego-self and he found his true self, non-self. By encountering impermanence he was able to examine his true self.

Shakyamuni's awakening was the liberation from ego-self and attaining peace of mind, called Nirvana.

In gassho,  
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata



この12月8日はお釈迦さまのお悟りになられた日であります。この日をご縁に私どもは成道会としてそのお釈迦様のお悟りを祝いました教えに感謝し、再度初心にかえり仏法に耳を傾けることです。

お釈迦様のおさとりと教えを簡単に述べるとすれば、苦、無常、無我という3つの言葉でのべられると古今より伝えられております。

苦の原因とは、無明、迷いの根本としての無知で、私どもが生まれて生きている大切さと、本当の人間の本性についての正しい智慧がない事です。

この世界は無常で自分も含め何もかも移り変わりますが、私どもは物事や思いに取り憑き、変わっていかねばいいとか、物事が思い通りいかないとき、自分の思いに執着し、苦しみ悩むのです。しかし実際はあらゆるものは変化し変わっていくのです。しかしそれらに執着する者にとって移り変わることが苦となるわけです。

お釈迦様は苦からの解放について次のように考えられました。まづ無明をなくすことが大切である、そして無明をなくすために一切の物事の本当の姿、あり方を正しく見ることが大事である。そして無明が無くなると執着がなくなり、苦もなくなるのだと考えられたのです。

しかし私どもにとって執着を無くし本当に苦から解放される事ははなはだ難しいこととあります。親鸞聖人はお浄土、法の世界より聞こえるお念仏を申し、仏法を聴聞して、その法の世界に帰ってゆくことにより、苦悩から解放される教えを示されたのです。南無と頭を下げて法の世界を念じるとき、自分の前に一如なる広大な世界が開かれるのです。

親鸞聖人はそのお心を、「有漏の穢身は変わらねど、心は浄土に遊ぶなり、」つまり、「苦悩煩悩をもつ身であるけれど仏の智慧と慈悲を頂いたとき、その心はすでに仏様と同じ境地にあるのだ」と詠われております。

私どもが仏法聴聞の生活を営むとは、常に自分の本当の姿を問い、仏様の智慧いただき無明の雲を晴らしてゆく道であり、それが私どもの仏道であります。ここにお釈迦様が歩まれた道と親鸞聖人が歩まれた道が同じ道であり、お念仏の道が私どもに示された苦悩からの解放の道と味わえることとあります。

お釈迦様の覚りの感動と教えが今も親鸞聖人や私どもの先達の方々を通しここにお念仏として私の所まで伝えられていることです。

合掌  
河和田賢淳





Saffron-robed Rev. Steve gives the dharma message at Kaneohe Hongwanji Hōonko.

**Rev. Toyoshima guest speaker at Kaneohe Hōonko service**

Betsuin resident minister Rev. Steven Toyoshima presented the dharma message at the Oct. 27 Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji’s Hōonko service.

After perusing the temple’s 95-year history and photos, Steve-sensei talked about his feeling the spirit of Shinran’s teaching in Hawaii among those who helped establish the Kaneohe temple to share the Nembutsu with others.

In the current building—its benches, windows and center for the community to gather—he found the strong foundation and opportunity for members to think about the Nembutsu. Rev. Steve pointed out, however, that talking story among the sangha is how the spirit of the teaching is transmitted.

**Regular December activities at Betsuin shift to holiday schedule**

‘Tis the season filled with holiday cheer, which for many means getting together with friends and family, scouring the malls in search of the perfect gift and squeezing in ways to celebrate the special time of year.

The Betsuin is also adjusting its normal schedule of activities to reflect the busy times and ministers’ travel schedules.

Please be aware that in December we will not be conducting Meditation Sutra and Larger Sutra study classes, ukulele practices, movie night and Teatime Oko discussion groups.

But don’t worry...there are other

unique only-in-December activities you won’t want to miss, such as the HBC Bodhi Day service, our Betsuin Bodhi Day service, annual year-end *oosōji* temple cleanup day, community mochi-pounding event and New Year’s Eve service.

Please check the temple activities calendar on the back page for dates and times of these special events.

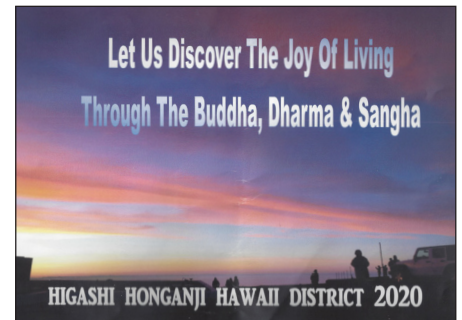
**District calendar available now**

Our Hawaii District 2020 full-color calendar is now available at a Higashi Hongwanji temple near you.

The calendar theme for 2020 is “Let us Discover the Joy of Living through the Buddha, Dharma & Sangha,” with quotations and photos submitted by temple members and friends in the Hawaii District

The calendar can be hung on a wall or laid flat to write in reminders of appointments, birthdays and other

special dates. Local temple events not to be missed are already pre-printed in the roomy blocks.



If you receive your calendar by mail, we hope you’ll consider a donation to help offset printing costs of the calendar as a constant reminder of Shinran’s teachings.

For additional copies of the calendar, you may visit our office or contact us by phone at 531-9088 or at [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org).

**NEW!** **Japanese for Travelers**  
**Sunday, January 19 & 26, February 2, 9 & 16, 2020**  
**12 noon - 1:30 pm**  
 Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin - Otani Center  
 1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu

Make your next trip to Japan a lot more fun and exciting! Brush up your conversational Japanese skills with some basic vocabulary and key expressions that’ll take out some of the stress and put more enjoyment in your travels around Japan.

**Japanese for Travelers** is a five-session conversational Japanese class that will help build confidence in using the language. It’ll help you while navigating your way around Japan, trying out food specialties and shopping for *omiyage* to bring home, even when you’re not in an English-friendly big city.

And it’s not only for travelers. You’ll learn counters, telling time, asking directions, seasons, geography, yen denominations and more! You’ll have fun learning about traditions, dress, culture, Imperial family and shrine and temple etiquette. Even seasoned travelers are sure to learn something new about smart phone apps, rail passes and travel cards. Plus, you’ll get to practice your newfound skills with native speakers and get some travel hints at the same time.

Classes will be facilitated by longtime Japanese instructor Betty Santoki and Fay Uyema. A donation of \$5 per class is suggested.

While enrollment is limited, the good news is that we’re inviting temple members and their families and friends to sign up first, before announcing it to the general public.

So act now and sign up today to reserve your spot! Call 531-9088, email [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org) or visit the temple office.

# Mochitsuki

Mama says:  
"A family that pounds  
mochi together is sure  
to stick together!"



- Fun for the whole family
- Educational for all ages
- Make it an annual tradition

*Donations greatly appreciated*

## Community mochi-pounding event *and more!*

**Sunday, December 29, 8:30 am - 12 noon**

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

Cultural activities the whole family will enjoy!

### Mochi-making merriment



Make mochi the traditional way, by pounding steamed mochi rice in a large *usu* mortar with a *kine* wooden pestle. Take mochi home for display and for New Year's *ozoni* soup!

### Kokedama making

Brighten up and green your home with attractive *kokedama* moss balls, made by wrapping a plant's roots with soil, moss and string.



Let's do this together, step-by-step, at the *mochitsuki* event. Pre-order your plant and other supplies needed for your *kokedama* by contacting the temple office by phone at 531-9088 or by email at [betsein@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsein@hhbt-hi.org) by Dec. 20. The fee is \$30 each.

This *kokedama* project is a temple fundraiser payable by credit card, cash or check to **Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**. Of the \$30 fee, \$20 is a contribution to our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Walk-ins may be accommodated at the event if *kokedama* supplies are still available. To ensure that your supplies are waiting for you, however, we highly recommend that you pre-order them.

### Folding an origami rat

We've updated the traditional art form, popular with young and old alike since the Edo Period, and for the upcoming Year of the Rat, let's learn how to make your own origami rat!



### Cooking demos



Watch how everyone's favorite, *tamagoyaki* rolled omelets, are made, layer by layer. Great as a side dish, in a bento box or on top of sushi.

### Try your hand at sumi-e

*Sumi-e* ink wash painting uses simple black ink and white space to capture the timeless beauty of the world. Create your own artwork with a calligraphy brush and *shikishi* art card.



See you at our Mochitsuki event,  
Sunday, December 29!

Watch for more events for the community sponsored by Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Call our office at 531-9088 to get on our bulletin email list.



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII  
1685 ALANEO STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Honolulu, HI  
Permit No. 693

## In this issue of WA...

- **A Journey to Enlightenment** p. 1
- **成道会** p. 2
- **News on the Betsuin Wireless** p. 3
- **Kaneohe Hōonko** p. 3
- **Temple holiday schedule** p. 3
- **District calendars available now** p. 3
- **Japanese for Travelers class** p. 3
- **Community mochitsuki event** p. 4
- **Acknowledgments** p. 5
- **December shōtsuki service** p. 5
- **Temple activities calendar** p. 6

## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

12/1	Sun	10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service</b> Dharma message: Rinban Kawawata
12/1	Sun	12 pm	<b>Basic Buddhism</b> discussion in Japanese <b>仏教入門（お話と座談会）</b> Fukuhara conference room
12/4	Wed	6 pm	<b>Karaoke night</b> at the Betsuin
12/8	Sun	9:30 am	<b>HBC Bodhi Day service</b> Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Guest speaker: Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer 1727 Pali Hwy., enter from Lusitana St. (No service at Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin)
12/15	Sun	10 am	<b>Betsuin Bodhi Day service</b> Dharma message: Rinban Kawawata
12/15	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b> Fukuhara conference room
12/15	Sun	12 pm	<b>Art of Paper Folding</b> class Otani Center
12/22	Sun	10 am	<b>Oosōji year-end temple cleanup</b> (No service at Betsuin)
12/28	Sat	10 am	<b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>
12/29	Sun	8:30 am	<b>Mochi pounding at Otani Center</b> Family fun with origami, sumi-e, kokedama making, cooking demo (no service at Betsuin)
12/31	Tue	5:30 pm	<b>Jōya-e New Year's Eve service</b> Bell-tolling 108 times & toshikoshi soba

### JANUARY

1/1	Wed	10 am	<b>Shūsō-e New Year Day service</b> Ozōni served after service
1/5	Sun	10 am	<b>Shōtsuki memorial service</b> Dharma message: Rinban Kawawata
1/5	Sun	12 pm	<b>Basic Buddhism</b> discussion (Japanese) <b>仏教入門（お話と座談会）</b>
1/6	Mon	10 am	<b>Meditation Sutra</b> study class (English)
1/7	Tue	7 pm	<b>Larger Sutra</b> study class (English)
1/8	Wed	6 pm	<b>Karaoke night</b> at the Betsuin
1/12	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
1/14	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele band practice</b>
1/16	Thu	6 pm	<b>Teatime Oko</b> discussion group
1/19	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
1/19	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b> Fukuhara conference room
1/19	Sun	12 pm	<b>Japanese for Travelers</b> class
1/19	Sun	12 pm	<b>Art of Paper Folding</b> class
1/20	Mon	10 am	<b>Meditation Sutra</b> study class (English)
1/26	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
1/26	Sun	12 pm	<b>Japanese for Travelers</b> class Otani Center
1/28	Tue	10 am	<b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>
1/28	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele band practice</b>
1/28	Tue	6 pm	<b>Movie night: Black Dawn</b> 外事警察 (2012)

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.