

# 和

‘WA’  
harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

March 2021

### 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 Jōdo Shinshū tradition of Buddhism.


A registered 501(c)3 organization

Head Minister: Kenjun Kawawata  
Resident Minister: Steven Toyoshima  
Minister: Akiko Okada

President: Kenneth Saiki  
Secretary: Marian Tsuji  
Treasurer: Shigeru Numano

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

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

## THE MIZUNA LADY

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

The Kawawata family's New Year ozōni is a shōyu-based soup with daikon, carrots, gobō, kamaboko and mizuna.

When I went grocery shopping to prepare for our family's traditional New Year's dishes, I couldn't find mizuna at any of the stores I visited. At



Rinban Ken Kawawata

Times Supermarket, my last stop for the day, I asked the produce clerk if they had any more mizuna in the back and she said they were sold out but were expecting additional deliveries the next day.

The following morning—already New Year's Eve!—I went back to the market but the mizuna produce bin was once again already bare. But then I spotted a lady getting mizuna from the back. I hurried there and asked the clerk if there was more, but she replied, sorry, no, that was the last of it.

The lady who got the mizuna must've noticed my look of exasperation and disappointment, and asked, "Would you like to have some?" and cheerfully handed me a bunch. I was so elated and relieved that I finally got my hands on some mizuna, and was so grateful to her for that. The lady humbly accepted my thanks with a gentle smile and went to continue her shopping.

Returning to the temple, I reflected on what had just happened. In retrospect, I realized I was being so selfish, desperately thinking about getting my own mizuna...my mizuna, my mizuna! How fortunate to meet a sweet lady who offered some to me. If she hadn't offered to share some of her precious bounty

(cont'd on p. 2)



## 水菜夫人

河和田賢淳

昨年の年末にお正月準備の買い物に参りました。河和田家のお雑煮は大根、人参、ごぼう、かまぼこ、水菜が入り醤油味です。どこのマーケットでも水菜が売り切れでした。最後に行ったマーケットで店員さん

に聞くと明日の朝にはまた入荷するとのことでした。そして大晦日の朝マーケットに行ってみるともう見当たりません。探していると一人の婦人が奥から水菜を受け取っていたのです。僕もそこに行き店員さんに聞いてみると、その夫人の水菜が最後でもう無いと言われました。きっと僕は彼女の水菜を欲しそうに見ていたのでしょう。するとその夫人は5束ぐらいあった水菜のひとつ束を分けてくれたのです。婦人の暖かい気持ちに感動し心よりお礼を言いました。謙虚な優しい笑顔の婦人でした。あの時、僕は自分の水菜しか手に入れる事だけしか考えていなく。自己中心的な自分でした。そこでそのご婦人の優しさに出会って感動したのです。

(次のページに続く)

## THE MIZUNA LADY (cont'd from p. 1)

with me, instead of this feeling of gratitude, I might've even harbored resentment toward her. The more I thought about it, the more I was impressed by her generosity and kindness. The lady was, indeed, like a Buddha or a Bodhisattva! Do I have that same kindness for others within me like this lady had?

Among the basic teachings of Buddhism are impermanence and selflessness. Human beings change according to the situation. We change moment by moment. Sometimes I may be an outwardly good person, and sometimes I may become evil. A Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, if you will. I am impermanent,

have no concrete self, and live in a constantly changing world. I have no control of my life, and live myself in the moment.

I recall one of Shinran Shōnin's hymns that goes,  
 "Although I take refuge in the Pure Land way  
 It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.  
 This self is false and insincere;  
 I completely lack a pure mind."

In another hymn,  
 "We are confused human beings listening to the teachings of the Amida Buddha's innermost aspiration. We are bonbu, ordinary humans with blind

passions. However, our hearts are in the Pure Land, the world of the dharma that purifies us."

I think Shinran Shōnin looked into his own self and could not find any good. Thus, Shōnin just depended on the Dharma. Listening to the Buddha dharma is to meet one's true self, and to be born into the Pure Land.

It was a busy end of the year, but I was so fortunate to have encountered The Mizuna Lady. I'm grateful to listen to the dharma again. (With editing assistance from Kevin Kawawata)

In gassho,  
 Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

## 水菜夫人 (前ページより続く)

お寺に帰って考えてみると、自分にはあのような優しさはあるのかな？ またもしあの婦人が水菜を分けてくれなければ、感謝でなく、かえって恨みを持って帰って来たかもしれないのです。

この自分の心は事に応じてコロコロ変わる存在だ。俄者（にわかもの）だと思いました。人間はその状況に応じて変わる俄者なのです。私は一瞬一瞬に変わる存在で、真に良い自分など本来ないのです。

そして親鸞聖人はご和讃を思い出しました。

浄土真宗に帰すれども  
 真実の心はありがたし  
 虚仮不実のこの身にて  
 清浄の心もさらになし

(浄土真宗に帰依する身となっても、我が心が正しく立派になることはあり得ない。外面は誠実をよそおっても、内心はうそいつわりにみちた不実なわが身であって、清浄の心も全くない。注釈：伊藤博之)

またご和讃の中で

超世の悲願ききしより われらは  
 生死の凡夫かは 有漏の穢身はかわ

らねど 心は浄土に遊ぶなり（帖外和讃）

“私どもは迷いの凡夫で阿弥陀仏の本願の教えを聞かさせていただく事により、煩惱にみちた身であるけれども心は浄土、清浄なる法の世界にあるのです。”と言われております。

仏教の基本的な教えは、無常、無我、苦、涅槃です。無常だから無我、変わってゆく世界に生きる我は常に変わる存在であり、恒久的な我はないのです。だから今の

自分を生きるしかない。何でもしかねない可能性を持った存在が自分なのです。親鸞聖人は真の善がない自分を見続けられ仏法を頼りに生きられた方でした。仏法を聴聞するとは本当の自分に出会ってゆくこと、また浄土（法の世界）に往生しつつ生活することに水菜夫人の出会いより改めて知らされたことでした。

合掌  
 河和田賢淳

## RECIPE

Southerners like to say a shared recipe is more precious than gold. And, it always comes with a story.

Local heirloom recipes are the same way, and they often come with back stories, too, like why Baban's dango in her dangojiru look more like chow fun than dumplings.

We hope you'll share some of your recipes, too, for our 2022 Hawaii District calendar. Maybe one for New Year's ozoni the way your family has prepared it for generations.

Or potluck dishes prepared for after-service otoki lunch, bon dance specialties or other family favorites.

Send recipes to [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org) or call 531-9088.



Rev. Patti Nakai Zoomed in Feb. 28 as guest speaker at our New Year Gathering.

### General meeting held on Zoom in conjunction with Shinnenkai

Our annual General Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, Feb. 28, online on Zoom, immediately followed by a virtual Shinnen Enkai New Year Gathering.

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata greeted attendees with his welcome message to members and friends who logged in the meeting.

Board president Ken Saiki called the meeting to order. After the minutes of the 2020 meeting were approved, he compared the temple's financial condition, 2019 pre-COVID and 2020 yearend. Even with greatly reduced in-person services and other activities, we've been fortunate to see increased donations and dues collection because of loyal member support. Lockdowns and restrictions on Otani Center class attendance, however, have led to markedly reduced rental income. Overall the temple was able to just about break even for the year.

Resident Minister Rev. Steven Toyoshima presented an overview of temple activities for the year, including the pivot to Facebook Live weekly services starting the first week in March, reduction or cancelation of various events due to restrictions on gathering and addition of new ways to continue our mission, such as virtual and remote services and adoption of PayPal to help in collecting funds for the temple.

While the pandemic resulted in the cancelation of the bon dance and a major fundraising event, sales of Mantō-e lanterns went up and were displayed in the temple's *hondo* as a tribute to loved ones who have passed. He also reported on families adjusting to funeral, special anniversary and *shotsuki* memorial services conducted virtually.

The board election was done with mail-in ballots. Marian Emi Tsuji was reelected for a three-year term set to expire on Feb. 25, 2024. Rinban Kawawata conducted an installation ceremony online.

The meeting was adjourned, then followed immediately by the start of the Shinnen Enkai, emceed by Rev. Steve Toyoshima, who introduced our special guest speaker.

Rev. Patti Nakai, a Sansei from Chicago, studied under Dr. Nobuo Haneda before receiving her master's degree in Shin Buddhist Studies from Otani University and *kyoshi* ordination as a Higashi Honganji minister.

After eight years as a part-time minister at the LA Betsuin, she returned to her hometown in 1995, serving as Associate Minister at the Buddhist Temple of Chicago until she was named Resident Minister in 2013.

Rev. Patti selected two verses of Shinran Shōnin's *Jōdo Wasan* (Verses of the Pure Land) to illustrate her theme, "Relying on Kindness," singing them to the melody of the gatha, *Nori no Miyama*, and even doing an encore.

Rev. Patti described Amida's "protection" as unlike a protective spaceship hovering above, beaming force fields of compassion on us, but more like ordinary water, surrounding us in many shapes and forms, inside of us, and everywhere we may happen to be. How comforting to think of such ubiquitous 24-hour protection.

Rev. Patti used the Chicago temple's annual Summer Festival as an example of relying on kindness. The sale of chicken teriyaki at the festival is a major fundraiser for the temple. As individual hard work and

self-sufficiency are considered virtues, members put much time and effort into preparing the food for sale. The members, especially vulnerable elders, however, would be placed in an uncomfortable position if asked to help with the risk of COVID infection.

Asking for help from a Japanese restaurant to prepare the chicken teriyaki is an exercise in kindness. Temple members can remain safe, the restaurant obtains some business in a difficult time and the community receives safely prepared food...a win-win proposition all around. Through collaboration we can find ways to mutually benefit.

Rev. Patti fielded questions and promised to visit Hawaii in person once conditions allow.

As a finale, Rev. Steve randomly selected winners of Longs/CVS and Starbucks gift cards, then closed the 2021 Shinnen Enkai by sharing a video of *Ondokusan* performed by the Dharma Hawaiians.

Here's hoping next year's General Membership Meeting and Shinnen Enkai will be a live, in-person event with food, fun and fellowship.

See you all next year!

### Los Angeles Betsuin vandalized; GoFundMe fundraiser initiated

On Feb. 25, the Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin in downtown LA's Little Tokyo was victim of an act of deliberate vandalism.

A 12-foot-high glass window at the entrance was destroyed, two metallic lanterns were ripped off their concrete bases and two six-foot wooden lantern stands were set on fire.

Shocked and saddened, community partners in Little Tokyo have started a crowdfunding campaign to show love and support for the Higashi temple and set a goal of \$50,000 to help cover the costs of repair and ongoing and future security needs of the temple.

Here's a link to the GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/dcae218d>

# HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN REOPENING STRATEGY

<p><b>Tier</b> City &amp; County of Honolulu</p> <p>Case Count (7 day average)</p> <p>Test Positivity Rate</p>	<p><b>TIER 3</b></p> <p><b>20 - 49</b></p> <p><b>1 - 2.49%</b></p>	<p>In the interest of the health and safety of everyone, we have adopted a very conservative approach to reopening the temple to in-person activities. As many in our temple ohana are in the most vulnerable groups, we appreciate your understanding. We hope to welcome everyone once again as soon as conditions safely allow. Please observe face mask and social distancing requirements at all times while on temple grounds.</p>
<p><b>Sunday services</b></p>	<p><b>Restricted</b></p>	<p>In-person attendance intended for those with no access to livestreamed services. Others please join virtually.</p>
<p><b>Shotsuki memorial services</b></p>	<p><b>Restricted</b></p>	<p>In-person attendance intended for those with no access to livestreamed services. Others please join virtually.</p>
<p><b>Anniversary memorial services</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p>Pre-arranged with social distanced seating. Others may join virtually. Please consult a minister for arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Funeral services</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p>Pre-arranged with social distanced seating. Others may join virtually. Please consult a minister for arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Weddings</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Pre-arranged with social distanced seating. Others may join virtually. Please consult a minister for arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Columbarium (Nōkotsudō)</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Open for visitation and floral offerings daily from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. Morning services conducted daily at 7 am.</p>
<p><b>Otani Center social hall</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Expect availability starting this Spring for meetings, classes and other social gatherings if conditions permit. Please email <a href="mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org">betsuin@hhbt-hi.org</a> or call <b>531-9088</b> for availability information.</p>
<p><b>Conference room</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>Expect availability starting this Spring for meetings, classes and other social gatherings if conditions permit. Please email <a href="mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org">betsuin@hhbt-hi.org</a> or call <b>531-9088</b> for availability information.</p>
<p><b>Temple study classes &amp; activities</b></p>	<p><b>Virtual only</b></p>	<p>Basic Buddhism, The Larger Sutra, Meditation Sutra, Dharma Hawaiians ukulele band, Karaoke Night, TeaTime Okō, Dharma Gatherings, general membership, board &amp; other committee meetings.</p>

Tier restrictions and temple reopening strategy subject to change.

Mahalo for your patience and understanding as we look forward to the time we can join together once again before Amida Buddha without restrictions to listen to the Dharma together.

## Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

# Spring Ohigan Service

**Date:** Sunday March 14, 2021  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Dharma Talk:** Rev. Peter Hata  
(Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple)

**Place:** Higashi Hongwanji Mission  
of Hawaii Facebook Page

[https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission/live_videos/)



Rev. Peter Hata

Rev. Peter Hata completed Minister's Assistant training in 2009, received Tokudo ordination in 2011 and, in spring 2012, received Kyoshi or full ordination. In the fall of 2012, he received Kaikyoshi status and was appointed West Covina Buddhist Temple's resident minister.

In 2014, Rev. Peter was transferred to the Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin, which began a new chapter of his life. He currently moderates the temple's Wednesday Night Study Class. For the past four years, the class has studied the Larger Sutra and Shoshinge. He also advises the Dharma Seeds lay leaders group which studies not only Shin Buddhism, but also the dynamic interaction between its teachings and our American cultural and intellectual traditions.

Rev. Peter is also a musician and was an original member of the Sansei jazz-fusion group Hiroshima for over 10 years. He also spent a number of years as an adjunct music professor at Cal State University Los Angeles.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please Call Higashi Hongwanji  
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii: (808)531-9088**



# HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT

## 2021 DOBO RETREAT PROGRAM DISTRICT DHARMA GATHERING

We wish to invite you to attend the 2021 District Dharma Gathering of Higashi Honganji Hawaii District. We will invite Dr. Takami Inoue, the professor of the Otani University, Kyoto as our guest speaker. The theme of the Gathering is “Let Us Discover the Joy of Living - Living in Uncertainty-” Please send the application form below to the Hawaii District office or to ministers of your local temple.

Date: Saturday, March 13, 2021  
Time: 2:00 pm — 4:00 pm  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Takami Inoue (Otani University, Kyoto)  
Theme: “Let Us Discover the Joy of Living -Living in Uncertainty-”  
Location: Zoom( We’ll send the link to applicants)  
Phone: (808) 531-1231  
Contribution: \$10.00 (payable to Higashi Honganji Hawaii District)



**Dr. Takami Inoue Biography**

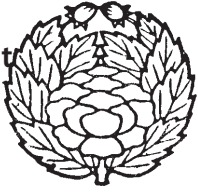
1959 Born in Nagano, Japan.  
1984 Graduate from Kyoto University (B.A. in Buddhist Studies)  
1984-89 English Language Teacher (Okaya Minami High School)  
1991 Received M.A. in Buddhist Studies, Otani University, Kyoto.  
1994 Received M.A. in Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara.  
1995-99 Writing a dissertation in Berkeley, CA, while working part-time for the Higashi Honganji North America District.  
1999 Secretary of the Eastern Buddhist Society in Kyoto.  
Managing Editor of The Eastern Buddhist.  
2003 Lecturer of Shin Buddhist Studies, Otani University  
2010 Received Ph.D. in Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara.  
Associate Professor of Shin Buddhist Studies, Otani University.  
2016 Professor of Shin Buddhist Studies, Otani University.

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: hawaii kantokubu@gmail.com

..... Detach Here .....

Name

Temple



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...

- **The Mizuna Lady** p.1
- **水菜夫人** p.1
- **Calling for recipes for calendar** p.2
- **News on the Betsuin Wireless** p.3
- **General meeting/Shinnenkai** p.3
- **LA Betsuin vandalism** p.3
- **Betsuin Tier 3 info** p.4
- **Fall Ohigan service** p.5
- **Joint Dharma Gathering** p.6
- **Acknowledgments** p.7
- **March shōtsuki memorial service** p.7
- **Temple activities calendar** p.8

## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 3/1 Mon 10 am **Meditation Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 3/3 Wed 6 pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 3/6 Sat 10 am **Omigaki** - Polishing of altar decorations
- 3/7 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook Live  
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 3/7 Sun 12 pm **Basic Buddhism** discussion - Zoom  
**仏教入門 (お話と座談会)** - Zoom ミーティング  
led by Rinban Kenjun Kawawata in Japanese
- 3/9 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Streamyard
- 3/9 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 3/13 Sat 2 pm **Joint Dharma Gathering** - Zoom  
Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Takami Inoue, Ōtani Univ.
- 3/14 Sun 10 am **Betsuin Ohigan service** - Facebook Live  
Dharma message: Rev. Peter Hata, LA Betsuin
- 3/18 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 3/21 Sun 10 am **Rennyō Shōnin memorial service**  
Facebook Live
- 3/21 Sun 11:30 am **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 3/23 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Streamyard
- 3/28 Sun 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live

### APRIL

- 4/4 Sun 10 am **HBC Buddha Day service**  
Facebook Live
- 4/5 Mon 10 am **Meditation Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 4/7 Wed 6 pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 4/11 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook Live  
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 4/11 Sun 12 pm **Basic Buddhism** discussion - Zoom  
**仏教入門 (お話と座談会)** - Zoom ミーティング  
led by Rinban Kenjun Kawawata in Japanese
- 4/13 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Streamyard
- 4/13 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 4/15 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 4/18 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live
- 4/18 Sun 11:30 am **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 4/25 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live
- 4/27 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Streamyard
- 4/28 Wed 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service**  
Facebook Live

**WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICES:** For the health and safety of our Betsuin ohana, in-person attendance at Sunday services is restricted until further notice. Sunday services are livestreamed on our public Facebook page and may be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission>

**COLUMBARIUM OPEN DAILY:** The columbarium is open for visitation and floral offerings daily from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. Morning services are conducted in the columbarium daily at 7 am. Please observe face mask and social distancing courtesies when others are present.

Niches are available for purchase by gojikai members.