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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

April 2021
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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

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 Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

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Editor: Ken Saiki

THE TWO-HEADED BIRD

Rev. Steven Toyoshima

March 15 marked the one year anniversary since we held our first online-only Sunday service in response to the rapidly worsening COVID-19 pandemic. This was our service for Ohigan, the “Other Shore.”

Now, just over 12 months later and optimism over coming to the end of the pandemic due to a year of changing our everyday lives, it feels like we are closer than ever to reaching the “Other Shore” of an end to the global pandemic that turned our lives upside-down.

Although there is hope that we will be able to return to a more normal way of life, the tragic shootings in Georgia and Colorado as well as the violent attack on Higashi Honganji in Los Angeles are a rude reminder that we are living in a divided world.

Like with anything else that happens in the world, we are taught that everything arises as the result of innumerable causes and conditions... nothing exists without something causing it. Racial prejudice comes from all corners of our society, in subtle and blunt ways. Harmful notions about race are deeply infused in our education, laws and in the media we consume every day. We unknowingly consume these and replicate it in our everyday lives, and these can boil over into discrimination and worse.

I recently read an article by Kona Hongwanji’s resident minister, Rev. Blayne Higa, about the Gumyōchō, an unusual two-headed bird that is described in the Amida Sutra and can be found in the altar decorations in many Pure Land temples. The name Gumyōchō means “shared life bird” and though the

(cont’d on p. 2)



Rev. Steve Toyoshima



双頭の鳥

豊島スティーブン開教係

オンラインのみの日曜礼拝を開始してから1年が経ちました。3月15日は、お彼岸のお勤めでした。

コロナウイルスによるパンデミックを受けてから1年以上が経過し、1年間の日常生活の変化によりパンデミックの終息に向けて楽観的になっている今、私たちの人生を逆さまにした世界的なパンデミックの終息という“彼岸”に、これまで以上に近づいているように感じています。

(次のページに続く)

TWO-HEADED BIRD (cont'd from p. 1)

bird shares the same body, the two heads Garuda and Upagaruda had entirely different personalities. Due to the heads being unable to agree on when to eat, to play and to sleep the heads began to hate each other.

Rev. Higa was talking about the extreme polarization in our society at the time of the Presidential election last year, but the story of the Gummyōchō still resonates. In a fit of rage over Garuda filling its one stomach beforehand, Upagaruda decided to punish its other head by eating a poison fruit. Of course, this caused both heads to be poisoned.

Before dying, Upagaruda realized how its life and death were innately tied to Garuda through the body they shared and

it finally understood the Buddhist teaching of interconnectedness for the first time. Because of this, it was born into the Pure Land and would be described as the beautiful two-headed bird who sang the sutras, leading living beings to enlightenment.

Human beings depend on our fellow humans as well as all living things on this planet in order to survive. The pandemic revealed how quickly infection and economic shutdowns could spread to all parts of the world with entire industries and economies suddenly affected. People risking their lives working in mail delivery, supermarkets and food service were key in keeping us all fed and supplied during the lockdowns. Unable to gather in person, we kept in contact and made friends

through our shared interests through the internet.

In the case of the donations to the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji, Rev. Peter Hata told us that many of the names of donors to repair the damage done were not Japanese American or members of the temple. Despite being from all different backgrounds, the story of the vandalism towards the temple resonated with people who may never have visited. I hope that as things become safer we can continue to support and stand in solidarity with our fellow foolish, ordinary beings.

We may not be two-headed birds, but we will only suffer if we try to live like we aren't depending on others.

In Gassho.
Rev. Steven Toyoshima

双頭の鳥 (前ページより続く)

しかし、ジョージア州やコロラド州で発生した銃乱射事件や、ロサンゼルス東本願寺で発生した破壊行為は、私たちが混乱の中で生きていることを痛感させます。

世の中のあらゆることがそうであるように、すべては無数の原因の結果として生じ、何かの原因がなければ何も存在しないと教えられています。人種に対する偏見は、社会のあらゆるところから、微妙な形で、あるいは露骨な形でもたらされます。人種に関する有害な概念は、教育、法律、そして私たちが日々接するメディアに深く浸透しています。私たちは知らず知らずのうちにこれらを見聞きし、日常生活の中で再現しており、これらが差別やそれ以上の事態に発展させることがあります。

仏説阿彌陀經に登場する、多くの真宗寺院の欄間彫刻に用いられている珍しい双頭の鳥、共命鳥(グミョウチヨ)について、コナ本願寺の比嘉ブレイン開教使の記事を最近読みました。共命鳥という名前の意味は「命を共にする鳥」という意味で、胴体は同じ一

つであります、全く異なる性格の二つの頭(顔)をもつ鳥です。食べる時間、遊ぶ時間、寝る時間が合わないため、頭同士は憎しみ合っていました。比嘉先生は、昨年の大統領選挙の際に、社会の極端な偏りについて話していましたが、共命鳥の話は今でも心に残っています。一方の頭(ガルダ)が、あらかじめ自分の側の空腹を満たしていたことに腹を立てたもう片方の頭(ウパガルダ)は、ガルダを罰するために毒の実を食べることにしました。もちろん、その結果、両方が毒されてしまいました。ウパガルダは死ぬ前に、ガルダと体を共有していることで自分の生と死がガルダの命と結びついていることに気づき、仏教の教えである「つながり」を初めて理解したといいます。そのおかげで、共命鳥は浄土に生まれ、生き物を悟りに導くお経を歌う美しい双頭の鳥と言われるようになりました。

人間が生きていくためには、仲間や地球上のすべての生物に頼らなければなりません。今回のパンデミックでは、ウイルスによる混乱がいかに急速に世界中の人々に影響を与えるか、産業や経済全体が急速に影響を受けるの

かということが明らかになりました。郵便配達、スーパーマーケット、フードサービスなどで命がけで働く人々は、ロックダウンの間も私たちに食事を提供し、生活するために重要な役割を果たしてくれました。直接会うことができなかった私たちは、インターネットを通じて連絡を取り合い、友人を作りました。

今回のロサンゼルス東本願寺の事件への寄付について、ピーター・ハタ開教使によると、寄付者の名前の多くは、日系人やお寺のメンバーではなかったそうです。さまざまな背景を持つ人々が、お寺の破壊行為について語ることで、お寺を訪れたことのない人たちの心にも響いたのです。今後、パンデミックが終息に向かうであろう中で、私たち愚かな普通の人間同士(凡夫)が互いに支え合い、連帯していくことができるようになることを願っています。私たちは双頭の鳥ではないかもしれませんが、他人に頼らないように生きようとすると、苦しくなるだけなのです。

合掌
豊島ステーブン



Rev. Peter Hata of the LA Betsuin was guest speaker at our virtual Ohigan

Facebook Live and Zoom help to extend reach of the dharma

Technology has brought us new ways to share the dharma around the world. Our guest speaker at the Betsuin Shinnen Enkai at the end of February, Rev. Patti Nakai, was able to tell us about her experiences in *Relying on Kindness* on Facebook Live from her home base, the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, some 4,000 miles to the east of Honolulu.

Two weeks later, Rev. Dr. Takami Inoue, a Shin Buddhist Studies professor at Otani University in Kyoto led a Hawaii District Dharma Gathering in a look at faith and true entrusting in Amida Buddha's Vow during catastrophes and epidemics. His lecture, *Let Us Discover the Joy of Living - Living in Uncertainty*, was delivered to attendees via a Zoom presentation from about 4,000 miles away to the west.

Then on March 14, our guest speaker for our Ohigan service joined us virtually from Los Angeles on Zoom and his message was livestreamed on Facebook. In his talk, Rev. Peter Hata of the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in LA related how the very heart of Buddhist teaching—of the interconnected nature of our lives—was brought very close to home by the spate of recent anti-Asian incidents.

While acknowledging the true motive behind the damage at the LA Betsuin is still unknown, he said the act of vandalism tops a history of exclusion, incarceration, harassment and outright violence Asians have faced in the past and serves to remind us we must all continue to listen to the teaching, wake up to the truth of our interdependence and have empathetic concern for each other.

Even as our Hawaii community progresses through Tier 4 and eventually settles in to a new normal, we expect to continue using Facebook Live and Zoom not only to extend the reach of our Betsuin services and programs but also to increase opportunities for our sangha to listen to varied and unique perspectives about the dharma from others.

At the same time, we eagerly look forward to the day when we can welcome all members and friends for face-to-face interaction and fellowship as soon as safe and practicable.

Calling for favorite recipes for 2022 Hawaii District calendar

With one-fourth of 2021 already behind us, we're getting ready to put together next year's Hawaii District pictorial calendar.

Our plan is to include favorite family recipes, such as those for *otoki* meals brought to the temple following Sunday services, bon dance food booth delights and pot luck specialties.

Cooking and eating together was an important part of sharing our diverse traditions, starting with the *fujinkai* in earlier times, then spreading among others in the temple ohana. We'd like to highlight these dishes from the past and present in our 2022 calendar as part of the history and legacy of Higashi Hongwanji's more than a century in Hawaii.

Feel free to get in contact with us via email at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org or calling **531-9088**.

HBC Buddha Day Hanamatsuri Service
Celebrating the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha



Date: Sunday, April 4
Time: 9:30 am (Hawaii time)
Where: Zoom (registration required; see below)
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson

Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson is a professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College, at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. In 2018 he was the Numata Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies at UH-Manoa. Dr. Wilson is the author of numerous books, including *Mindful America* and *Buddhism of the Heart*. His current research is focused on Japanese American Buddhism and social engagement. He is also an ordained minister in the Honpa Hongwanji tradition.

Call (808) 522-9200 or (808) 531-9088 for more information.



Registration FREE

Scan the QR code or use the link below by April 3 to register.

http://bit.ly/2021HBCBD_registration

Donations welcomed

Scan the QR code or use the link below to make donations.



http://bit.ly/2021HBCBD_donations

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN REOPENING UPDATE

<p>Tier City & County of Honolulu</p> <p>Case Count (7 day average)</p> <p>Test Positivity Rate</p>	<p>TIER 3</p> <p>20 - 49</p> <p>1 - 2.49%</p>	<p>In the interest of the health and safety of our temple ohana, we have adopted a very conservative approach to reopening the temple to in-person activities. As many in our members are in the most vulnerable groups, we appreciate your understanding. We hope to welcome everyone once again as soon as conditions permit. Please observe face mask and social distancing requirements at all times while on temple grounds.</p>
<p>Sunday services</p> <hr/> <p>Shotsuki memorial services</p> <hr/> <p>Anniversary memorial services</p> <hr/> <p>Funeral services</p> <hr/> <p>Weddings</p> <hr/> <p>Columbarium (Nōkotsudō)</p> <hr/> <p>Otani Center social hall</p> <hr/> <p>Conference room</p> <hr/> <p>Temple study classes & activities</p>	<p>Limited</p> <hr/> <p>Limited</p> <hr/> <p>24</p> <hr/> <p>24</p> <hr/> <p>10</p> <hr/> <p>10</p> <hr/> <p>10</p> <hr/> <p>6</p> <hr/> <p>Virtual only</p>	<p>To minimize risk for all, we encourage joining us at weekly Sunday services and monthly shotsuki memorial services via livestreaming from our public Facebook page. In-person accommodation intended for those without ready access to such virtual services.</p> <hr/> <p>Pre-arranged with social distanced seating in the main hall, usually reserved for family members. Other desiring to participate may join virtually from home or anywhere via Zoom if desired. Please consult a minister to make arrangements by email at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org or by calling 531-9088.</p> <hr/> <p>Open for visitation and floral offerings daily from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. Morning services conducted daily at 7 am.</p> <hr/> <p>Re-opening for rental beginning in April for classes, meetings and other social gatherings, subject to Tier restrictions on capacity, social distancing spacing and gathering maximums for the intended activity. Prior users will have first opportunity to return to previous schedule. Please email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org or call 531-9088 for availability information.</p> <hr/> <p>Basic Buddhism, The Larger Sutra, Meditation Sutra, Dharma Hawaiians ukulele band, Karaoke Night, TeaTime Okō, Dharma Gatherings, general membership, board & 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
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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

APRIL

- 4/4 Sun 9:30 am **HBC Buddha Day service** - Zoom
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson, Univ. of Waterloo
Register by 4/3 (see p. 3 for details)
- 4/5 Mon 10 am **Meditation Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 4/7 Wed 5:30 pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 4/11 Sun 10 am **Betsuin Hanamatsuri service** - Facebook Live
Dharma message: Rev. Akiko Okada
- 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** - Zoom
- 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 **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook Live
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 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** - Zoom
- 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 limited. We suggest you view our livestreamed Sunday services on our public Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission>

MAY

- 5/2 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook Live
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 5/2 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
- 5/3 Mon 10 am **Meditation Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 5/5 Wed 5:30 pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 5/9 Sun 10 am **Mother's Day family service** - Facebook Live
- 5/11 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 5/11 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 5/16 Sun 10 am **Tanjō-e service** - Facebook Live
- 5/16 Sun 11:30 am **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 5/20 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 5/23 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live
- 5/25 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 5/28 Fri 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service**
Facebook Live
- 5/30 Sun 10 am **All Wars Memorial service** - Facebook Live

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.