

# 和

‘WA’  
harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

5  
May 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

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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

## THE MEANING OF CALLING NAMES

Rev. Akiko Okada



Hello everyone. I feel so honored to write my first article in “WA.”

Although my life in Hawaii has been somewhat restricted by the pandemic, it is, thankfully, fulfilling, and I’m looking forward to seeing you all as soon as possible.

This time, I’d like to share my personal story of my grandmother’s death. The reason why is that there is an important thing to be taught by the deceased.

In early March this year, my grandmother in Japan passed away. She was 97 years old and had lived for 97 years and 10 days. Her birthday was on February 23. A year ago, she was still in good health and eating cake on her birthday, but this year, she couldn’t speak or move by herself. Her internal organs were healthy and she had no illnesses, but she was senile and even though she usually looked very healthy, she was at an age when anything could happen at any time.

I come from a family of three generations of only children: my grandmother, my father and myself. Except for me, no one had ever moved out from our birth home.

My mother, on the other hand, grew up in a large family of tradesmen who were not from a temple family. She married into the Okada family. Therefore, the difference in the living environment still confuses her even now, 40 years after she married.

My grandmother spent most of her life at Ganshō-ji Temple, the local temple where I was born in Osaka. I have always felt that as an only child, unless I try to make the connections with others and try to obtain many world experiences spontaneously, I wouldn’t be able to become a social person. For this reason, I always thought of my grandmother and the Okada family as a family whose time had come to a standstill. Also, I used to make fun of my grandmother and father for being “naive” because they never worked in society as an employee. I even thought that was a bad thing.

In retrospect, I remember complaining, “What kind of nagging grandmother is this?” Most of my friends say they like their grandmothers because they are kind, but I didn’t consider my grandmother as kind at all. Perhaps because of this, I gradually stopped listening to my grandmother and even thought of her

as a stubborn, old woman. I thought, at least. However, as she grew old in her later years, and especially after I left for the U.S. in 2018, she was very concerned about me and often mentioned my name. I was never aware that my grandmother cared that much about me, but I realized that being called by name was a good

(cont’d on p. 2)



Oba-chan on her 96th birthday in 2020.

## 名前を呼ぶということ

監督部 岡田在子

今回初めてこのニュースレターに寄稿させていただけることをありがたく思っております。以前、ハワイに着任した際に少しだけ挨拶をさせていただいたきり、早いものでこの記事が皆様のお手元に届く頃には、私のハワイ生活も10ヶ月になっております。私のハワイ生活はまだまだコロナ禍の生活のみですが、ありがたいことにハワイでの生活が充実しており、もうすぐ一年を迎えようとしていることに驚きます。

さて、私ごとですが、今年の3月に父方の祖母がお浄土へ還りました。97歳で、世に言う「大往生」でした。コロナ禍ではありますが、なんとか日本へ帰国させていただくことができ、葬儀に参列することができました。私の家族は

(次のページに続く)

opportunity to think about things I had never thought about before. Perhaps there was a wish for me to grow up without shame as her only grandchild and the successor to the temple that she had supported with utmost care. I didn't want to just live in the temple without experiencing anything and I thought I was looking outward in my own way, but after seeing my grandmother's funeral, I realized that it was just my own conceited thinking and actions.

When my grandmother passed away, everyone took all possible measures to prevent the spread of the corona disease, and many people came to pay their respects. I was very surprised. When a person passes away at that age, it is not unusual in today's Japan for the funeral to be almost a mere formality, as there are few people who knew the person. The funeral told me how

my grandmother had supported the temple through her steady efforts rooted in the community. However, my grandmother, whom I thought was naive to the world, was widely known to the public and had a strong character image as the Obā-chan of the temple. When I saw this, I realized how arrogant and foolish I had been.

Now that she is gone, I remember more clearly the way my grandmother put her hands together to the Altar, Gohonzon, which I did not pay much attention to when she was alive. She was always quietly putting her hands together in Gasshō and chanting the Nembutsu. She always welcomed visitors to the temple with a smile and said, "Hello, welcome here." When I think about whether or not I can do that now, the answer is that I can't. Have I ever put my hands together in Gasshō to the Altar like she did? Have I called out Amida Buddha's name, "Namu-Amida-Butsu"? The fact that my grandmother called my name a lot

makes me think that it was a natural thing for her to do, oozing from this daily life of Nembutsu.

When I speak at memorial services, I often tell people that "the deceased are teaching us." This time, having actually experienced my own grandmother's death, I felt that it was finally a word that could come from me. However, as time goes by, the feelings that I am feeling now will be forgotten. Therefore, I realize how important the Buddhist rituals like memorial services are, and how important it is to pay a visit to the temple to confirm that there are many things that the deceased have taught us in the present.

Once I realized how well my grandmother had done her job, even teaching us after her death, and that her way of life was teaching us who are living now, I realized that I should be even more grateful for the life I have now.

In Gasshō,  
Rev. Akiko Okada

## 名前を呼ぶということ (前ページより続く)

祖母・父・私と親子三代にわたり全員が一人っ子です。母はお寺ではない商売人の大家族で育ち、岡田家に嫁いできてくれました。そのため、生活環境の違いに、嫁いで40年経つ今も戸惑うことがあるそうです。そんな祖母ですが、大正13年生まれで、生まれてから亡くなるまで、ほとんどの時間を願正寺(私の生まれたお寺です)で過ごしました。一人っ子というのは、社会へ出てよほど大きな荒波にでもまれない限り、世間からの情報にとても疎くなってしまいがちな、と私は感じて過ごしてきました。そのため祖母のことを、岡田家という一家のことを、時代が止まっている家庭だと思っていました。祖母は世間知らずで、お恥ずかしながらバカにしていたこともありましたが、あまり多くを語らない人でしたが、かと言って決して優しいおばあちゃんでもなく、幼少期の頃からよく叱られていたため、「なんやこの口うるさいおばあさんは。みんなおばあちゃんは優しく好きって言うのに私のおばあちゃんは全然優しくない」と文句を言っていたことを覚えています。そのためか、次第に祖母のいうことは聞かなくなり、頑固婆さんだとさえ思っていました。外面はいいくせに家族にはなんて厳しいんだ！と

思っていました。しかし、晩年年老いていくにつれ、そして私が渡米して以降は特に私のことを気にかけてしよつちゅう私の名前を口にしていたそうです。祖母からそれほど気にかけてもらっている自覚が全くありませんでしたが、名前を呼ばれるということは、今まで考えなかったことを考えさせられるいい機会だと気が付きました。祖母にとっては唯一の孫であり、祖母が何よりも大切に守ってきたお寺の継承者として恥じないように育ててほしい、という願いがかけられていたのかも知れません。私は、何も経験しないままにただお寺に安住するのは嫌だと思いい、自分なりに外へ外へと目を向けていたつもりでしたが、祖母の葬儀の様子を見て、それは自分だけの驕った考えと行動だったと気が付きました。ご門徒の方だけでなく実に大勢の地域の方々が、97歳にもなる祖母のお葬儀に参列してくださいました。それは、いかに祖母が地域に根ざした地道な努力をしてお寺を支えてきたかを物語っていました。私たちは、生きる方向は同じであっても、道のりは様々あっていいと思います。祖母と私は、生きる方向は同じでも生き方や時代は大きく異なります。生前はあまり気にも留めていなかった、祖母が御本尊に手を合わせる姿が、亡くなった今、より鮮明に思い出されます。いつも心静かに合

掌し、お念仏を唱えていました。いつでもお寺に来る方々を「よお越し」と笑顔で迎え入れていました。果たして今の私にそれができるかどうか考えてみると、考える必要もないほどに、できない、という答えが出ます。祖母のように御本尊に手を合わせたことがあるのか。南無阿弥陀仏と、阿弥陀如来の名を呼んでいるのか。祖母が私の名前をたくさん呼んでくれたことは、こうした日々のお念仏の生活からにじみでている、祖母にとってはごく自然なことだったのではないかと、思われることです。

どうしてもいつでも会えると思っている時には気がつかないことはあります。しかし、そろそろ49日の法要をお迎えするにあたり、改めて祖母がいまを生きる私たちに、仏となって教えてくれていることはなんなのかを考えます。それは人それぞれ異なることだと思います。それぞれが故人とのかかわりのなかで、今を生きる私たちにヒントのようなもの、時には厳しい戒めのようなことの場合もあるでしょうが、教えてくれています。法要をお勤めするとき、日々御本尊に手をあわせるときなどのふとした瞬間に、いただいた命を生きさせているありがたさを感じながら、皆様とともにお念仏の生活を送りたいと思います。

合掌  
岡田在子



Betsuin volunteers cleaned the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park on Apr. 21 and paid tribute to the nine who lost their lives in the tragic accident off Oahu.

### Ehime Maru accident victims and other seafarers remembered

With ten in our Betsuin ohana pitching in, our cleaning of the Ehime Maru Memorial overlooking the Pacific at Kakaako Waterfront Park was completed in short order. The cleaning was followed by a short service.

As gentle, rhythmic waves lapped the shore, the chanting of *Tanbutsuge* and offering of incense brought to mind the memory of the nine who died in the tragic Ehime Maru collision, as well as the countless others who perished in the far reaches of the Pacific.

Retreating to a shady picnic table for *otoki* of *musubi* and green tea, we reconnected, for some after more than a year. What do folks who haven't seen each other for a year talk about? Here it was mostly about things like where one might find the "HI-5c" recycling info on aluminum cans.

Amidst the pandemic of the century, it was reassuring to discover that life went on without missing a single beat.

### Main temple building entrance procedures and hours modified

When visiting the temple before 9 am, you may find that the security entrance gate to the temple building from the parking lot may be locked. Please call the temple phone number,

which is posted at the entrance, for help in entering the building.

We've temporarily adopted extra security precautions to minimize trespassing and loitering on the premises by unauthorized persons. We're hopeful that once we resume our regular temple activities, the situation will resolve itself.

Again, if you'd like to see a minister, visit the columbarium or have other business to conduct at the temple, please feel free to call the temple office at (808) 531-9088 and someone will come out to assist you.

During the Memorial Day weekend, the entrance will remain open from 7 am to 5 pm to facilitate bringing floral offerings to the columbarium.

### Itadakimasu! Calling for *otoki* recipes for 2022 District calendar

*Otoki* meals have been a Buddhist tradition since early times. Besides nourishing our bodies, during *otoki* we reflect on our interconnectedness and interdependence, and express our gratitude to all who had a hand in the meal, including those who shared their recipes.

Many *otoki* favorite recipes were passed down through generations, adapted to available ingredients and local tastes, and often shared among *fujinkai* members. Our plan is to gather as many of the favorite recipes of past generations as possible and publish them in our 2022 Hawaii District calendar as part of the history of Higashi Hongwanji's legacy to share with future generations.

Different generations of temple members may recall different *otoki* potluck favorites, and we'd like to include as many as we can. Some popular dishes went on to become temple bon dance specialties as well.

So whether your recipes are for temple classics, such as chicken *hekka*, pork tofu, *dangojiru* and *nishime*, or for nostalgic "school-kine" baked spaghetti, Spanish rice and dessert *otoki* favorites or some other crowd-pleaser, please share them with us!

Feel free to get in contact with us via email at [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org) or by calling 531-9088. Or you send recipes to Rev. Steve Toyoshima at the Betsuin by mail.



A National Buddhist Memorial Ceremony for Asian American Ancestors

*May We Gather* is the first national Buddhist memorial service in response to anti-Asian violence. The ceremony will be livestreamed from our sister Higashi Betsuin in Los Angeles, which was vandalized earlier this year. The event will bring together Asian American Buddhists and their allies to heal in community together. You'll find more info about the *May We Gather* event at <https://www.maywegather.org/>

Watch the free livestreamed event starting at 12 noon (Hawaii time) on Tues., May 4, at <https://www.maywegather.org/livestream>

# Higashi Honganji Hawaii District

## *Virtual Local Dharma Gathering*

*From Honolulu*

**D a t e : Saturday, May 15, 2021**

**T i m e : 10:00 am to 11:30am**

**P l a c e : Online via Zoom**

**Guest Speaker: Rev. Noriaki Fujimori (Palolo Hongwanji)**

**T h e m e : Let Us Discover the Joy of Living: -Living in Uncertainty-**



We wish to invite you to the 2021 Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Local Dharma Gathering. We will invite Rev. Noriaki Fujimori, the resident minister of Palolo Hongwanji as our guest speaker. Usually we do this Gathering at each temple but this year we will have TWO gatherings broadcast from Honolulu (Hawaii Betsuin) and Hilo (Hilo Higashi Hongwanji) via Zoom. Both gatherings are open for all of the members of our Hawaii District. Let us gather and listen to the Dharma online!

Please send your completed application form to the Hawaii District Office.  
**1685 ALANEO ST., HONOLULU, HI 96817 / HAWAIIKANTOKUBU@GMAIL.COM**

**Once we receive your registration, we'll Email the Zoom Link to you before the gathering.**

**Donations are Welcome! PAYABLE to HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT**

**(We only accept checks. Sorry for the inconvenience.)**

**N A M E :** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR TEMPLE:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### 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  
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
- 5/15 Sat 10 am **Local Retreat: Living in Uncertainty**- Zoom  
Guest speaker: Rev. Noriaki Fujimori
- 5/16 Sun 10 am **Shinran Shōnin birthday service - Tanjō-e**  
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

### JUNE

- 6/2 Wed 5:30 pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 6/6 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook Live  
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 6/6 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
- 6/7 Mon 10 am **Meditation Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 6/8 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 6/8 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 6/13 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live
- 6/13 Sun 11:30 am **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 6/17 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 6/20 Sun 10 am **Father's Day family service** - Facebook Live
- 6/22 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 6/27 Sun 10 am **Local Retreat: Living in Uncertainty**- Zoom  
Guest speaker: Rev. Kazuya Miyoshi (Hilo)  
No service at Betsuin
- 6/28 Mon 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live

**WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICES:** For the health and safety of our Betsuin ohana, in-person attendance at Sunday services is temporarily limited. We highly suggest you view our livestreamed Sunday services on our public Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission>

In Remembrance  
Memorial Day - Mon., May 31

Special Memorial Day weekend hours:  
Sat - Mon, May 29 - 31: 7 am - 5 pm