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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

June 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

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Editor: Ken Saiki

THOUGHTS ON MASKS

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

It's been more than a year since we started wearing masks due to the spread of the coronavirus. We mask up wherever we go and wear one no matter whom we meet. There are many people who don't like it when entire faces can't be seen or feel uncomfortable with a mask on.

When someone wears a mask, all you can see is the person's eyes and head. You can't see smiles, as a smile is created by the face, mouth and eyes together. Of course, behind the smile, the heart may be smiling, but we can see that partially. I'm only able to gauge the other person's emotions through their words and actions.

However, sometimes not being able to see others' faces can also be a good thing. Instead of judging people by their faces or shapes, we look beyond these physical impressions and see people as human beings, as life, on an equal footing.

Our sense of beauty and ugliness is a human-made value system, and it changes with time and place.

For example, in the Edo period, the image of a beautiful woman was the same as that seen in *ukiyo-e* prints: narrow eyes, a small nose, a small mouth, and an outline of a face called an *urizanegao* (literally, a gourd-shaped face). Boys were favored for their long faces, narrow eyes, and straight-line mouth, just as the preferred look for Kabuki actors was a beautiful boyish face. This is quite different from today's sense of physical attractiveness. Nowadays, it seems that the beauty ideal of both sexes is large eyes, high noses, moderately large mouths and tall. The human sense of beauty value changes with time.



Ukiyo-e by Utamaro (1753-1806), popular in his day for his "bijinga" prints of beautiful women.

There is no universality in this.

However, with the advent of the coronavirus, the human sense of value has been tossed aside, and we can now view everyone equally as one life. This fact of the emergence of the coronavirus tells us what is real and true. Wearing a mask allows

(cont'd on p. 2)

マスクに思う

輪番 河和田賢淳

このコロナウイルスの感染拡大し、マスクを着用しての生活が始まりもう一年以上経ちました。どこに行くにもマスクが必要です。誰に会ってもマスクしています。顔全体が見えない事の違和感、いつもしている時の不快感を感じる方も多い

事でしょう。

マスクをしていると相手の目と頭しか見えないのです。笑顔が見えない、顔、口や目によって笑顔が作られる。もちろん、その奥には心が微笑んでいるのですが表情が半減しているのです。言葉で相手の感情を見なくてはならないのだと思います。

しかし顔が見えない事で良いこともあります。顔や形で人を判断しなくなります。人間の作る判断を超えて、人間を人間、いのちとして対等に見ることができるのです。

特に人間の美醜感覚は人間の作った価値観であり、時代や場所によって変わって行くものです。

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Rinban Ken Kawawata

THOUGHTS ON MASKS (cont'd from p. 1)

us to see people not by their face or shape, but as individuals.

This is to see things from the world of Dharma, the world of equality. This current situation teaches us about the world of Dharma and the equality of life. It makes us realize that each person's life is equally alive beyond the disparities of beauty and ugliness, race, status and wealth that we create. That is the world of Oneness, the world of One Life.

Each one of us is different, but we are living together in the world of oneness. We are living as we are. It is beautiful because it is as it is, and it is pure because it is as it is. It is a world of truth that transcends the values created by human beings, a world that is beautiful and pure, and it is called the Pure Land.

The call from that world is "Namu Amida Butsu," and we are called to return to that world and live with the Dharma as our foundation.

In gassho,
Rinban Ken Kawawata

マスクに思う (前ページより続く)

例えば、江戸時代の美人像は浮世絵に見られるような美感覚で、目は細く、鼻は低く小さく、口も小さなおちよぼ口、そして顔の輪郭は瓜実顔（うりぎね顔）で、また身体つきは背は高からず、このような人が好まれたのです。そして男子は面長（おもなが）、目は細く、くっきり、口は真一文字で、ちょうど歌舞伎の男子役が美男子と言われ好まれたのです。それは全く今日的美感覚とは異なります。今風ですと、男女ともに目は大きく、鼻は高く、口も適度に大きく、背の高い人に美の中心があるようです。人間の美感覚、価値観は時代によって変わるので、そこには普遍性がないのです。

しかしコロナウイルスの出現より、人間の価値観は崩され、皆、一つのいのちとして平等に見ることができるようになりました。

コロナウイルスの出現というこの事実が、何が本当か、真実かを教えてくれているのです。マスクをすることに

より、顔や形で人間を見るのではなく一人のいのちとして見ることができるのでしよう。

これは法の世界、平等の世界からものを見ることなのでしょう。この現状が法の世界を教え、いのちの平等性を教えてくれている。私たちの作る美醜感、人種、地位や貧富の異差を超えたところで一人一人のいのちを平等に生かされていることに気づかされるのです。それが一如の世界、ひとつのいのちの世界に生きているのです。

一人一人違うけどひとつの世界と一緒に生きている。そのまま生きている。そのままだから美しい、そのままだから清浄なのです。そこは人間の作った価値観を超えた真実の世界だから美しく、清浄な世界、それを浄土というのです。その世界からの呼びかけが「南無阿弥陀仏」であり、その世界に帰れ、法を拠り所として生きなさいと呼びかけられているのです。

合掌
河和田賢淳

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN REOPENING UPDATE

With more than half of Hawaii residents now fully vaccinated, decreasing rate of new COVID-19 cases and loosening of restrictions both locally and nationally, we are selectively beginning to open temple activities to in-person attendance as described below to vaccinated individuals. We will continue to observe current Oahu Tier guidelines, including face mask, social distancing and sanitation precautions, for the health and well-being of all in our Betsuin ohana. To arrange for temple use or if you have questions, please feel free to call us at **(808) 531-9088** or email **betsuin@hhbt-hi.org**.

Shotsuki memorial and Sunday services	Join us for services in person or via livestreaming from our public Facebook page. Social distanced seating for up to 24 persons or families may sit together.
Funeral/anniversary memorial services	Social distanced seating for up to 24 persons in the main hall; others may participate virtually. Please consult a minister to make arrangements.
Columbarium (Nōkotsudō)	Open for visitation and floral offerings daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Morning services conducted daily at 7 am.
Otani Center multi-purpose hall	Reserve for classes, meetings and other social gatherings, subject to current Tier restrictions on capacity and gathering maximums for the intended activity. Please contact the temple office for rental and availability information.
Conference room	
Temple study classes & other activities	Basic Buddhism, The Larger Sutra, Meditation Sutra and TeaTime Okō: Zoom Movie Night: In person starting in July Ukulele band, Karaoke Night: Hybrid (both Zoom and in-person) starting in July.

Subject to change. Please check with the temple office for any new updates.

THE MANTŌ-E TRADITION: Decorating Obon with “10,000 lanterns”

The Mantō-e tradition started in Japan about 1,200 years ago during the reign of Emperor Shōmu, when 10,000 lights (“mantō-e”) were lit in honor of the Buddha around the Tōdaiji Temple in Nara.

At the Hawaii Betsuin of Higashi Hongwanji, we celebrate the tradition of Mantō-e every July at obon. Usually the lanterns are outdoors, radiating out from the bon dance *yagura*. With no bon dance being held this year, the lanterns will be displayed in the temple’s Main Hall for our Obon/Hatsubon/Mantō-e service held on Sunday, July 18, through the following week.

With your donation of \$35 for each lantern you may wish to offer in memory of a loved one, we will imprint his or her name, along with your name as donor, on a small tablet hung from each Mantō-e lantern.

The custom lanterns are yours to keep. You may pick up anytime after the July 18 service, through the end of August.

Return the form below with your check to reserve your lantern. Or scan the QR code, fill out the online form and make your donation with PayPal. Only a limited supply of lanterns are available, so don’t delay. First come, first served.

The entire \$35 donation qualifies as a tax-deductible contribution under current IRS reporting requirements. Consult your tax advisor. Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

YES! PLEASE RESERVE A MANTO-E LANTERN FOR ME!

Lantern in memory of: _____ **Dharma name** _____

1. _____

2. _____

(Use another sheet for additional names)

Lantern donor name(s) _____ **Phone** _____

Email: _____

I wish to decorate my lantern Yes No

Join a lantern-decorating workshop Sat., June 26? Yes No

Preferred time: 1:00 1:20 1:40 2:00 2:20 2:40

Checks for \$35 for each lantern may be made payable and sent to:
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817

*Join our lantern
decorating workshop
on Sat., June 26,
from 1:00 - 3:00 pm!*



*Create your own unique message
in memory of a loved one!*

Each lantern is approximately 7-1/4” wide by 11” tall, with two panels pre-printed with “Mantō-e” and “Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin” in Japanese calligraphy. A 2” x 8-1/2” tablet is hung from each lantern, one side showing the loved one’s name, dharma name (if known) and donor’s name. Two of the lantern panels and the reverse side of the hanging tablet are available for decorating, if desired.

If you wish to decorate your lantern, you may join our free workshop on Sat., June 26 from 1 to 3 pm in Otani Center. Or you may decorate it on your own and return it to us by July 15 for display during Obon. If no decorating is desired, we will simply print your tablet with the application information.



Scan this QR code
to order lantern



Scan this QR code
to donate via PayPal

Rev. Miyoshi is guest speaker for Local Dharma Gathering from Hilo

Hilo Higashi Hongwanji Resident Minister Kazuya Miyoshi is slated to serve as guest speaker for the Hawaii



Rev. Kazuya Miyoshi

District Virtual Sunday Service and Local Dharma Gathering set for Sun., June 27, from 10 am to 12 noon.

The theme of the Zoom online gathering is *Let Us Discover the Joy of Living: Living in Uncertainty*, and is a follow-up to the District's Honolulu Zoom gathering held May 15 and facilitated by Rev. Noriaki Fujimori of Palolo Hongwanji.

Rev. Miyoshi, assigned this past February as the new minister of the Hilo temple, wants to share his view on living in uncertainty with others in the Hawaii District.

Born and raised in a temple family in Kagawa prefecture in Japan, he would follow his grandfather and father in chants together at memorial services and, at age nine, received his initial ordination. After graduating from college, his keen interest in fashion apparel led him to working at various boutiques.

Eleven years ago, he returned to his hometown and family temple and took a sales position at a company that distributed Buddhist altars and accessories. He furthered his studies in Jōdo Shinshū teachings at Dōhō University and met the requirements to become a fully ordained minister.

Rev. Miyoshi worked at the Higashi Honganji Ōtani-ha branch headquarters in Tōkyō as well as temples in Aichi, Saitama and Chiba prefectures before being selected and assigned to an overseas position at Hilo Higashi Hongwanji. His life's journey has taken many twists and turns along the way.

"I learned from Buddhism to accept myself as I am. The teachings tell us how precious and meaningful

this daily life is because we can't always live as we want to," he says.

"The teachings make me feel comfortable and make life easier."

Accompanying Rev. Miyoshi in Hilo is his wife, Eriko.

To participate in Hilo's service and the District gathering, simply send your name, contact phone number, email address and temple affiliation to the Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Office at hawaiikantokubu@gmail.com or mail to **Higashi Honganji Hawaii District, 1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817**. You will be sent the Zoom link to the service and gathering by email. While everyone is invited to

participate at no charge, check donations are greatly appreciated and may be mailed to the Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Office.



Rev. Toyoshima & Rev. Fujimori monitor progress at the May 15 Zoom gathering.

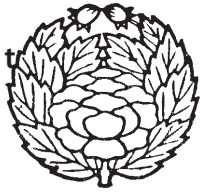


Even those who may not be fans of the ancient art of Kabuki will surely be entranced by the sheer beauty and craftsmanship of Benkei (top) from *Kanjinchō*, and the parent and cub lions from *Renjishi*.

These traditional dolls are among the 100's of items that are ready to return from hibernation in storage bags during the past year, and are eager to return to their former glory and liven up a new owner's home.

Our Nomi no Ichiba flea market plans, which have been on hold for several months due to the pandemic, is now scheduled for October. We're readying our vast selection of Reyn's aloha shirts, children's clothing, jewelry, kitchen accessories and chinaware, books and many other items for quick sale.

We're looking at possibly doing pre-sales of selected items in the *Wa* newsletter, during our Sunday service live streamed broadcasts and at the upcoming Manto-e Lantern Decorating Workshop on June 26. Watch for more details!



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JUNE

- 6/2 Wed 5:30 pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 6/6 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook/In-person
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/In-person
- 6/13 Sun 12 pm **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/In-person
- 6/22 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 6/26 Sat 1 pm **Manto-e Lantern decorating** - Otani Center
See p. 3 for details on reserving your lantern
- 6/27 Sun 10 am **Local Retreat: Living in Uncertainty** - Zoom
Guest speaker: Rev. Kazuya Miyoshi (Hilo)
No service at Betsuin. See p. 4 for details.
- 6/28 Mon 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live

WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICES: In-person attendance at Sunday services has returned, subject to face covering requirement & social distancing seating capacity. You may also view our livestreamed Sunday services on our public Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission>

JULY

- 7/4 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook/In-person
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 7/4 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
- 7/5 Mon 10 am **Meditation Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 7/7 Wed 5:30 pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom/In-person
- 7/9 Fri and 7/10 Sat **No bon dance** this year due to COVID-19
- 7/11 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 7/13 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 7/13 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 7/15 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 7/18 Sun 10 am **Hatsubon/Obon/Manto-e service**
Facebook Live/In-person
- 7/18 Sun 12 pm **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 7/20 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 7/25 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 7/28 Wed 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live

NO BON DANCE AT THE BETSUIN THIS YEAR: Due to current restrictions on large gatherings in consideration of the health and safety of participants, Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, as well as other denominations affiliated with the Hawaii Buddhist Council, will not be holding a bon dance this summer. We hope conditions will be right for us to gather once again for our annual tradition next year.