

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

7
July 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

THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG

Rev. Steven Toyoshima

Getting into the Summer months always puts me in mind of Obon season, the wonderful time of year when the taiko drums thunder and the Mantō-e paper lanterns sway in the warm summer wind.

Obon for me has always been associated with hometowns and homecoming. Sadly, due to the ongoing pandemic we are not able to gather together for in-person Obon festivals this year. Although vaccinations and decreasing infection numbers have allowed us to open up more in-person activities, many of us are still waiting on being able to travel back home until after Obon season is over to be on the safe side.

After a year and a half when traveling back home has not been possible, I have been thinking a lot about hometowns. The idea of the hometown pops up all the time in the *enka* music I love, many of them singing from the perspective of people who left their hometowns and are now living far away. Perhaps no song reflects this nostalgic longing for home than the John Denver song, “Take Me Home, Country Roads.”



Rev. Steve Toyoshima

Take Me Home, Country Roads

by Bill Danoff, Taffy Nivert & John Denver

I hear her voice in the morning hour, she calls me

The radio reminds me of my home far away

Driving down the road, I get a feeling

That I should have been home yesterday, yesterday...

Even though the writers of the song had never set foot in West Virginia before creating the song, the emotion and deep wish to return home resonates beyond the Appalachian countryside captured in the lyrics.

Not everyone has happy memories of their hometowns, but we cannot help but be shaped by the places, time and circumstances we grow up in. As we deal with stress and anxiety in our daily lives, our happy memories of who we once were and where we once lived become comfortable places to return to.

The discomfort of being physically separated from our loved ones is one of the causes of suffering or *dukkha* identified by Shakyamuni Buddha. Our circumstances are constantly shifting and changing and we feel bad when we cannot adjust or hang onto what used to be.

Although we hear these songs that make us nostalgic for home, the calling voice in the morning hour is really asking us to see that our hometown is closer than we realize. Unlike the idealized or

(cont'd on p. 2)

THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG (cont'd from p. 1)

impermanent hometown in our memories this hometown is a spiritual one.

Our true hometown is the world of limitless wisdom and compassion that we symbolize in the words "Namu Amida Butsu." Realizing this opens our eyes to the countless people and things surrounding us that are illuminating the dharma teachings for us and supporting our everyday life.

When this calling voice, this radio signal from our true hometown reaches us and we are able to see the world here and now as our true hometown clearly, we naturally bow and express our gratitude in "Namu Amida Butsu."

Even though I still miss the family, delicious Mexican food and Obon festivals of my Southern California hometown, I always try to remember that the country road leading to our true hometown is one where we can travel gratefully wherever we are.

In gasshō,
Rev. Steven Toyoshima

夏になると、私はいつもお盆のことを思い出します。太鼓の音が鳴り響き、万灯籠が夏の暖かい風に揺れる素晴らしい季節です。

私にとってのお盆は、常に故郷と帰郷に関連しています。残念なことに、今年はパンデミックが続いているため、直接集まってお盆の行事を行うことができません。ワクチン接種や感染者数の減少により、対面での活動ができるようになりましたが、多くの方々は、安全のためにお盆の時期が終わるまで帰省することを控えています。

この1年半、故郷に帰ることができなかった私は、故郷について考えることが多くありました。私が好きな演歌の中には、故郷という概念が常に出てきます。その多くは、故郷を離れて遠くで暮らしている人の視点で歌っています。

ジョン・デンバーの「Take Me Home, Country Roads」（日本語名：「カントリー・ロード」）ほど、故郷を懐かしむ気持ちを反映した曲はないでしょう。

ウェストバージニア州に一度も足を踏み入れたことのない作者が作った曲



ですが、歌詞に込められた感動や故郷への深い思いは、アパラチアの田園風景を超えて響きます。

誰もが故郷に幸せな思い出を持っているわけではありませんが、私たちは育った場所、時間、環境によって個人が形作られていくことは避けられません。日々の生活の中でストレスや不安を抱えている私たちにとって、かつての自分や住んでいた場所での楽しい思い出は、心の拠り所になるはずです。

愛する人と物理的に離れてしまうことの不安や悲しみは、釈尊が指摘した苦しみ（ドゥッカ）の原因の一つです。私たちの状況は常に変化しており、調整できなかつたり、以前の状態にしがみついたりすると、居心地が悪くなります。

故郷を懐かしむような歌を耳にして

も、朝の時間に聞こえる呼びかけの声は、私たちが思っている以上に故郷が近くにあることを教えてくれているのだと思います。思い出の中の理想的で無常なふるさととは違い、このふるさととは精神的なものです。

私たちの本当の故郷は、「南無阿彌陀仏」という言葉に象徴される、無限の智慧と慈悲の世界です。このことに気づくと、私たちを取り巻く無数の人や物が、私たちのために法の教えを照らし、私たちの日常生活を支えていることに目が向けられます。

この故郷からの呼びかけの聲が届き、今ここにある世界が本当の故郷であることが明確になったとき、私たちは自然に「南無阿彌陀仏」とお念仏をして感謝の気持ちを表します。

故郷の南カリフォルニアの家族や美味しいメキシコ料理、お盆のお祭りなどが恋しくなっても、本当の故郷に続く道は、どこにいても感謝しながら旅ができる道であることを忘れないようにしています。

合掌
豊島ステイブン

カントリー・ロード

作詞：ビル・ダノフ、タフィー・ナイバート、ジョン・デンバー

彼女の声が聞こえた 朝早くに 彼女は僕を呼んでいた
カーラジオを聞くと 遠くの故郷を思い出す
車を走らせながら思ったんだ
昨日にでも 故郷に帰るべきだった 昨日にでも...

News on the Betsuin Wireless

Betsuin board members in the news

In addition to helping ensure our temple runs smoothly and remains in sound financial condition, your volunteer Betsuin board members are actively serving the community in various capacities in public service and other organizations.

Board Secretary Marian Emi Tsuji was appointed last month as deputy director of behavioral health administration at the Hawaii State Department of Health. Previously



Marian Tsuji

Oahu branch administrator at the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, she spent 12 years as president and CEO

of Lanakila Pacific, a social services organization that includes programs for adults with disabilities.

Emi earned her MA in criminal justice from City University of New York and BA in sociology and criminal justice from Long Island University.

Past Betsuin Treasurer Ed Nakano—our longest-serving board member—starts his second year this month as president of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants.

A member of the executive team of C.S. Wo & Sons, Ltd., Ed serves as the kamaaina company's corporate



Ed Nakano

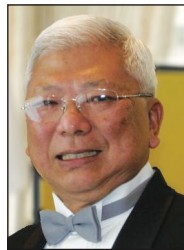
secretary and treasurer and oversees the Wo family's non-retail activities, including legal and tax issues, procurement of major equipment and capital

expenditures, investments, property management and estate and financial planning for certain owners.

From delivering newspapers as a 6th-grader in Hilo to serving as a U.S. Army infantryman in Vietnam to being a CPA for 47 years, Ed is accustomed to facing challenges head-on and

adapting to and embracing new solutions. We are very fortunate our temple has been a benefactor of his professional expertise in establishing and cultivating a strong financial foundation to ensure the temple's viability well into the future.

Board President Ken Saiki was presented the 2021 United Japanese Society of Hawaii Award for Contributions to the Japanese Community and Hawaii at the organization's virtual 2021 Installation and Recognition Banquet on June 26. He was recognized for his past and continuing commitment and leadership in organizations supporting efforts to strengthen friendship between the people of Japan and the U.S.



Ken Saiki

Ken also serves as president of Hawaii Meijikai and director of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association, as well as several other local community organizations. A retired Bank of America and Central Pacific Bank marketing executive, he also retired as a captain in the U.S. Navy with 26 years of active and reserve service. He was conferred with an Imperial decoration by the government of Japan in 2007.

Movie Nights return, starting with Kon Ichikawa's *The Burmese Harp*

With Myanmar (fka Burma) in the news cycle every day, we thought it might be appropriate to mark Movie Night's return from COVID hibernation with an encore presentation of Kon Ichikawa's memorable film, *The Burmese Harp*, featured back in March, 2014.

An Imperial Japanese Army regiment surrenders to British forces in Burma at the end of World War II and finds harmony through song. A private, thought to be dead, disguises himself as a Buddhist monk and stumbles upon spiritual awakening. The 1956 b&w film is an eloquent meditation on beauty coexisting with death and remains one of Japanese cinema's

most powerful antiwar statements, both tender and brutal in its grappling with Japan's wartime legacy.

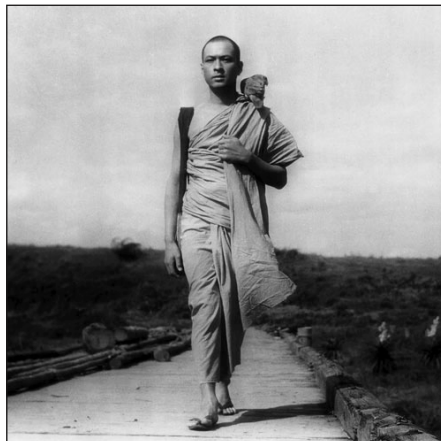
Awarded the San Giorgio Prize, Venice Film Festival, 1956; nominated for Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards, USA, 1957; among other awards.

Stars Rentaro Mikuni as Capt. Inoue & Shoji Yasui as Pvt. Mizushima. Directed by Kon Ichikawa. Japanese audio, English subtitles, 116 minutes.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., July 27. Free admission, Light refreshments, or bring your own or to share.

ビルマの豎琴 (ビルマのたてごと)

1956年に竹山道雄の同名小説を市川崑監督で映画化。日本兵の霊を慰めるため、僧侶となってひとりビルマの地に残る兵士の姿を描く。1945年夏。ビルマ戦線の日本軍はタイ国へと苦難の撤退を続けていた。そんな逃避行の最中、井上小隊長率いる部隊は、みな音楽好きで水島上等兵の弾く豎琴の音に合わせ力強く合唱していた。やがて終戦を知った彼らは投降し、ムドンに護送されることになったが、水島だけは未だ抵抗を続ける日本軍に降伏を勧めるため隊を離れるのだが…。



Kon Ishikawa's "*The Burmese Harp*" was magnificently shot in hushed black & white.

受賞歴：1956年、ヴェネツィア国際映画祭サン・ジョルジオ賞受賞。1957年、米国アカデミー外国語映画賞にもノミネート；そのほか。

出演者 井上：三國連太郎 水島：安井昌二 言語：日本語、字幕：英語 映時間：116分、白黒、入場無料、7月27日(火)午後6:30時。



Mantō-e Lantern Decorating Workshop

Families and individuals gathered at the Otani Center workshop on June 27 and put their creative hats on to design their own Mantō-e lanterns for Obon. They used watercolors, crayons, calligraphy and marking pens, construction colored and origami paper, parchment, glue, stickers, glitter and other supplied materials to personalize their lanterns.

Others brought old photographs or wrote heartfelt messages of thanks in memory of those who came before us, making our lives and all that we enjoy today possible.



It's not too late to honor loved ones with a Mantō-e lantern at Obon. We will print their names, Dharma names and your name on a tablet to suspend from your lanterns, which will be on display in the Main Hall during Obon.

Lanterns are available for a donation of \$35 each through July 16. You may pick up and take your lantern home any time after the July 18 Obon/Mantō-e service, through the end of August.

Please visit the temple or email your request to betsuin@hhbt-hi.org. For your convenience, you may use the QR code below to order (left) and make your donation via PayPal (right).

ORDER



DONATE



HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN Temple Activities Update

With about 60% of Hawaii residents now fully vaccinated, the decreasing rate of new COVID-19 cases and new, less restrictive guidelines for gatherings both locally and nationally, we have selectively opened some temple activities to in-person attendance as described below. We will continue to observe current Oahu Tier 4 guidelines, including face mask, social distancing and sanitation precautions, for the health and well-being of all in our Betsuin ohana. If you have questions, please feel free to call us at **(808) 531-9088** or email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.

Sunday services

Join us for weekly services in person or via livestreaming from our public Facebook page (Facebook account not required). Social distanced seating for up to 24 individuals; families may sit together for additional capacity.

Shotsuki memorial services

Social distanced seating for up to 24 persons in the main hall; additional capacity when families sit together. Families may offer incense as names are called. Others may participate virtually.

Funeral & anniversary memorial services

Social distanced seating for up to 24 persons in the main hall; additional capacity when families sit together. Families may offer incense as names are called. Others may participate virtually. Please consult a minister to make arrangements.

Bedside, burial & inurnment services

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

Study classes

Basic Buddhism, The Larger Sutra, Meditation Sutra and TeaTime Okō: Zoom

Other activities

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.



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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
- 7/7 Wed 5:30pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom/In-person
- 7/9 Fri and 7/10 Sat **No bon dance** this year
- 7/11 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 7/12 Mon 10 am **Meditation Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 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 12pm **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
- 7/27 Tue 6:30pm **Movie night: *The Burmese Harp*** ビルマの豎琴
- 7/28 Wed 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live

AUGUST

- 8/1 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook/In-person
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 8/1 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
- 8/4 Wed 5:30pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom/In-person
- 8/8 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 8/10 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 8/10 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 8/15 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 8/15 Sun 12pm **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 8/19 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 8/22 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 8/24 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 8/24 Tue 6:30pm **Movie night: Movie selection TBA**
- 8/28 Sat 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live
- 8/29 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person

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

NO BON DANCE AT THE BETSUIN THIS YEAR: In consideration of the health and safety of our Betsuin ohana, 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 next year for us to gather once again for our annual bon dance tradition.