

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

8
August 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

THOUGHTS OF LIFE

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

Sometimes on my days off, I will venture out to Oahu’s shoreline and spend time watching fish dart about in the ocean, or observing *honu*, or green sea turtles, come ashore to laze on a sunny beach. When I look at the fishes and other creatures in the water, I always feel in awe of the wonder of life. There are so many living things existing together on this planet. None of them are the same and each one is living a different life. I am simply one of those many lives. Every life is unique and important.

A few weeks ago, a member of the Betsuin who had read in our *Wa* newsletter about my difficulty finding mizuna at the supermarket gave me some mizuna seeds. So I decided to start a small vegetable garden. Besides mizuna, I planted cucumbers, tomatoes and string beans. I’m eagerly looking forward to all the delicious, fresh vegetables we’ll be able to harvest and eat in the coming months.

Once the vegetables from the garden are ready for eating, most people will say that I was the one who grew them. But when you think about it, you come to realize that I am really not the one who grew them. All I do is plant the seeds and water them. After that, the vegetables receive nutrients from the soil and grow naturally in the sunlight. There are various conditions that make the vegetables grow and I am just one of those conditions.

It’s the same with everyone’s life. I didn’t create my own life. I was born as a result of conditions related to my father and mother. And I am alive today because of various causes and conditions. We are supported by many other lives.

This kind of life or condition has been called Amida. Amida means immeasurable life, life that cannot be measured, life that cannot be counted. We are alive and supported by that immeasurable and uncountable life. And Amida is a word that expresses the workings of the true teaching. This is the wisdom of our predecessors, to bow down to the many lives and live humbly while listening to the true teachings.

During Obon, we remember our parents, grandparents and ancestors. These people are also the life of Amida. We recite the Nembutsu and express our gratitude for all lives, in the past as well as today.

In gassho,
Rinban Ken Kawawata



Rinban Ken Kawawata



Sunlight, water and soil nutrients are among conditions that cause string beans to flourish.



お盆: いのちについて

河和田賢淳

私は時々、休日には、海へ魚やカメを見にゆきます。水中で魚たちや他の生物を見ていると、いのちの不思議さを感じるのです。多くの生き物が一緒に生きている。そしてどれ一つをとっても同じものは無く、それぞれ違う命を生きていています。僕もその多くのいのちの一つなのです。どのいのちも大切にユニークないのちです。

先日別院のメンバーから水菜の種をもらい、小さな菜園をはじめました。水菜、キュウリ、トマト、豆などを植えています。きっとしばらくすると美味しい新鮮な野菜を食べることができるでしょう。

普通このように野菜などを作ると、皆、これは私が作ったものだと言います。しかしよく考えてみると、

私が作るのではないことに気づきます。

私は種を植え、水やるだけです。あとは野菜が土から栄養をもらい、太陽の光を受けて自然に育つのです。そこにはいろいろな条件があり、それによって野菜は育ち、実を付けるのです。だから私もただその条件の一つなのです。

みんなのいのちも同じなのです。自分のいのちは自分で作ったものではありません。父と母を条件に生まれたのです。そしていろいろなご縁、条件があって今、生きているのです。多くのいのちに支えられて生きている。

このようないのちや条件を阿弥陀と呼んできました。阿弥陀とは無量寿、量ることができないいのち、数え切れないいのちという意味です。その無量のいのち、数え切れないいのちによって生かされているのです。また阿弥陀とは真実の教えの働きを表す言葉です。だから南無阿弥陀仏と、真実の教えを聞きつつ、多くのいのちに頭を下げ、謙虚に生きる、これが私たちの先達の方々の智慧なのです。

お盆は近くは両親や祖父母を思い、先祖を思いお参りします。その方々も阿弥陀のいのちなのです。

合掌
河和田賢淳

SHÔTSUKI MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE FOR AUGUST

Our monthly shôtsuki service in the hondo, or main hall, in remembrance of temple family members who passed away in the month of August of a previous year will be held at 10 am on Sunday, August 1. Shôtsuki memorial services are also livestreamed on the temple's public Facebook page.

The following list includes temple members from the past 50 years and others whose deaths occurred in this month. If you would like your family member's name read aloud during the memorial service following the sutra chanting or have any questions about the listing, please call us at **531-9088** or email us at **betsuin@hhbt-hi.org**.

Nathan Choy Akee	Jack Tatumi Ishida	Helen Tamae Marques	George Minoru Sagawa	Hatsuko Tsunoda
Reiko Arakaki	Richard Hiroki Ishida Jr.	Jean Katsuko Matsuwaki	Robert M. Sakamoto	Tomochika Uyeda
Harumi Fuchikami	Gilbert Masami Ishii	Thomas Mimuro	Ruth Natsuko Sasabuchi	Florence Chiyoko Uyeno
Irene Masako Fujiki	Hatsuo Ishii	Yukie Minatoya	Helen Yoshie Shimamura	Adeline Sugai Ventura
Raymond M. Hamamoto	Kenzo Ishii	Kameo Miyahira	Hellen Fumiko Shimazu	Chiyoko Watanabe
Lorraine Yukie Hanai	Mitsuko Ishii	Mae Mitsue K. Miyasato	Alfred Sadamu Shimoda	John Masami Yamada
Hisae Hebaru	Shigeru Ishimura	Thomas Miyashiro	Jane M. Shimogawa	Bernard K. Yamamoto
Ruth Tatsuyo Hiraki	Toyomi Iwasaki	Ayano Miyazaki	Masao Shimomura	Janet Setsuko Yamauchi
Masano Hirashima	Frank Minoru Kaito	Haruo Nagashima	Shizuko Sumiye	Wayne A. Yamauchi
Janice Motoko Hirata	Jack Shigeru Kaneshiro	Wallace Shigeru Naito	John Choong Sur	Chiyoyasu Yano
Hiroko Hiroi	Harry Toshio Katsumoto	Kiyoshi Nakagawa	Harry Tatsuo Tagomori	Ethel Matsue Yasuda
Patricia K Hiroshima	Leatrice Namie Kimura	Kenji Nakahara	Tomonosuke Takahashi	Roy Masami Yasuda
Edwin Hosaka	Sayo Kinoshita	Toshikatsu Nakahara	Matsue Takayama	Eiko Yoshida
Yoneko Ihara	James Kiyoshi Kodama	Ryoki Nakama	Hilda Hideko Takehiro	Fumie Yoshida
Tatsue Ikeda	Koto Kodama	Paul Naoto Nishida	Moriso Takenaka	Hitoshi Yoshimura
Mitsuye Ikuta	Yoshimi Kubota	Susan Yoshie Oi Moody	Masami Tanaka	Kimiyo Yoshino
Lawrence Masaru Imai	Mabel Tora Kurisaki	Herbert Shunji Okamoto	Tomie Tanijo	Stanley Kiyoshi Yoshioka
		Thomas Yoshio Okuda		



Obon 2021

Panoramic 180° view of lanterns in the main hall

Our combined Hatsubon/Obon and Mantō-e service was held on Sunday, July 18 at the Hawaii Betsuin and was open to in-person attendance. It was also livestreamed on Facebook and archived for viewing at any time.

Normally our Mantō-e services immediately precede our bon dance but for the health and safety of our island community during the ongoing pandemic, crowd-drawing bon dances state-wide were canceled this year.

We are hopeful that conditions will improve so that we'll be able to once again hold our bon dance next summer!

Bon dance or not, Obon is a time to remind us of how much our parents and grandparents—all our ancestors—have done to make our lives happy. We express gratitude for all of the conditions, both past and present, that have helped to sustain our lives. Obon is truly an opportunity for all of us to rejoice in the life we enjoy.

As another way to thank departed loved ones, families had a chance to customize their Mantō-e lanterns this year. To help in the effort, we conducted a lantern decorating workshop in June and supplied budding artists with starter materials and ideas. Some came up with creative use of washi, paint, calligraphy, origami, photos and original artwork. The lanterns were strung up in the hondō and displayed for a week after the Obon service.



We remember loved ones we lost during the past year at the Hatsubon service. Candles were lit for each of the 20 temple family members who passed away since our previous Obon.



Rev. Steve takes a break from hanging Manto-e lanterns to show the full-page feature article in The Hawaii Herald about our lantern decorating workshop held on June 26.



Kevin Kawawata presents lighted candles for families who were not able to attend. Rev. Steve Toyoshima and Rev. Akiko Okada assist Rinban Kenjun Kawawata with the sutra chanting.



Framed between JMSDF officers, Rev. Steve is introduced before beginning chanting at the Obon service at Makiki cemetery.

Betsuin ministers assist with Obon observances around town

The United Japanese Society of Hawaii held its annual Obon Service at the Hawaii Japanese Contract Laborer Immigrant Memorial at Makiki cemetery on July 17, Rev. Steve Toyoshima officiated at the COVID-restricted ceremony attended by the Consul General of Japan in Honolulu, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force officers and other invited guests.

On July 25, Rinban Ken Kawawata conducted an Obon service at the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako



Rinban Ken Kawawata (center) led the Obon service at the Ehime Maru Memorial, assisted by Rev. Marcos Sawada of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji, Rev. Steve Toyoshima of the Betsuin and Rev. Akiko Okada of the Hawaii District Office of Higashi Honganji.

Waterfront Park, attended by Betsuin and Kaneohe temple members and some folks who happen to pass by.

The service was preceded by a thorough cleaning of the memorial and followed by Spam musubi, garlic chicken and other treats under the pavilion trellises at the water's edge.

If you liked the movie *Departures*, you'll want to see *Eriko, Pretended*

In this poignant, yet comedic, film, Eriko Yoshioka (Haruka Kubo) chases her dream of becoming an actress in Tokyo. Although appearing in a few commercials, she mostly auditions and lives the life of a freelancer. Following the death of her estranged sister in an accident, she returns to her hometown in Wakayama to attend the funeral. Relatives are leery about Eriko's pretend life as an actress and distaste for her hometown. She decides to take care of her sister's son, Kazuma (Atsuya Okada), but is having a difficult time.

Eriko discovers her sister was a "nakiya," or professional mourner whose job at funerals was to fill out seats and ensure people cry properly. She decides to follow in her footsteps. Where will her life's path take her?

Directed by Akiyo Fujimura.
Released in 2016. Japanese audio, English subtitles, color, runtime 93

minutes. Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Aug. 24. Free admission, Light refreshments, or bring your own.

見栄を張る (みえをはる)

吉岡絵梨子 (久保陽香) は女優として事務所に所属しておりCMに出演したこともあったが、最近はずっとバツとせずに惰性



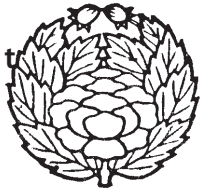
でオーディションへ通い続けてフリーターのような生活を送っていた。

そんなある日、疎遠だった姉の訃報が絵梨子に届く。姉の葬儀のために故郷の和歌山県へと戻ってみると、親戚連中は絵梨子のことを「東京で浮ついた生活をして、故郷に顔を出さない」と冷たい。姉が女手一つで育てた甥っ子の和馬 (おかだあつや) を引き取ろうとするが、絵梨子は料理もまともにできない。親戚連中は「女優に子供の世話は無理」と絵梨子を責める。

絵梨子は生活のため、姉が働いていたという泣き屋の仕事をはじめることにした。

葬儀で参列者の涙を誘う泣き屋の仕事の意義を理解できなかった絵梨子であったが、死者と遺族をつなぐという泣き屋の仕事をすることで、見栄を張り自堕落だった自分を捨て、「なりたい自分」を取り戻していく。

監督：藤村 明世、公開：2016年、言語：日本語、字幕：英語 映時間：93分、カラー、入場無料、8月24日(火)午後6:30時。



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 8/1 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook/In-person
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 8/1 Sun 11:30am **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: Eriko, Pretended** 見栄を張る (2016)
Betsuin Hondō (Main Hall)
- 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, temperature check & face covering required, up to social-distanced seating capacity. You may also view our Sunday services ivestreamed and archived on our public Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission>

SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 Wed 5:30pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom/In-person
- 9/5 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook/In-person
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 9/5 Sun 11:30am **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
- 9/6 Mon 10 am **Amida Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 9/12 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 9/14 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 9/14 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 9/16 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 9/19 Sun 10 am **Fall Ohigan service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 9/19 Sun 12pm **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 9/26 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 9/28 Tue 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live
- 9/28 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 9/28 Tue 6:30pm **Movie night:** Movie selection TBA

COLUMBARIUM OPEN DAILY: The columbarium is open for visitation and floral offerings daily from 9:00 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.