

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

September 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

FACING CLIMATE CHANGE

Rev. Steven Toyoshima

What would we do if Waikiki beach disappeared? Where would we live if places like Southern California were submerged by the rising sea level brought on by climate change? How can we survive the heat waves and weather disasters stirred by rising ocean temperatures?

These are things that I have been thinking about since the report on climate change was released by the United Nations' climate researchers. The world is heating up and we are feeling the effects. The last few summers have consistently seen record heat waves, giant wildfires and flooding around the world.

Before the pandemic, I was part of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists book club reading David Loy's book, "Ecodharma." David Loy is a Zen teacher and professor of comparative religions who writes about socially active Buddhism. The book discusses how to look at and approach the gigantic issue of climate disaster from a Buddhist perspective.

Like the first step in Alcoholics Anonymous, the jumping-off point is to understand that there is a problem and that we as human beings are responsible for it. Gigantic amounts of money have been spent on a campaign to convince us that the damage that human beings have

(cont'd on p. 2)



Rev. Steve Toyoshima



Waves breach makeshift sand barriers at Ft. Derussy in this Hawaii and Pacific Islands King Tides Project photo from 2017. It provides a stark preview of how global warming and sea level rise will affect low-lying areas such as this section of Waikiki Beach in the years to come.

もし、ワイキキビーチがなくなったら、私たちはどうするのでしょうか？気候変動による海面上昇で南カリフォルニアなどが水没したら、私たちはどこに住めば良いのでしょうか。海水温の上昇に伴う熱波や気象災害をどう乗り越え、生きてゆけばよいのでしょうか。

国連の気候研究者が発表した「気候変動に関する報告書」を見てから、私はこのようなことを考えてきました。世界は温暖化しており、私たちはその影響を感じています。ここ数年の夏は一貫して、記録的な熱波、巨大な山火事、洪水などが世界中で発生しています。

パンデミックが起こる前、私はハワイ国際仏教徒協会のブッククラブに参加し、デビッド・ロイの著書「Ecodharma、エコダルマ」を読んでいました。デ

(次のページに続く)

気候変動に向き合う

豊島スティーブン開教係

FACING CLIMATE CHANGE (cont'd from p. 1)

done to the environment is minimal and that it is too expensive or risky to change the way that we consume natural resources.

Human beings consume natural resources to live, to create, to eat. This has been the case since the first humans walked the earth, but advancements in our technology has made it possible for us to extract these resources faster than ever before. We have become a global economy, harvesting resources not just for our local communities but to be sold to the entire world.

In "Ecodharma," Prof. Loy talks about how the worldwide demand for raw tuna for sushi and sashimi has put the bluefin tuna in danger of extinction. Instead of trying to change our eating habits or practicing more sustainable farming, companies have begun stockpiling frozen tuna in giant freezers in order to make a bigger profit selling them after the global supply has been exhausted.

We are still living with the mindset that human beings are masters of the Earth and are entitled to do whatever we want with it. Through our egotistical view, we see ourselves and Nature as being separate.

Much like how we cling to the idea of staying healthy and young forever, it feels like humanity would be able to

grow and prosper forever. The reality of life is that human civilization is more fragile than we could imagine.

Life is able to exist on this planet due to the countless interconnected living things both visible and invisible. We all are in a delicate balance, depending on each other to survive. The animals and plants that we consume to survive, the water we need to drink, the air we breathe, all of these are being harmed and destroyed by the pollution we are creating and resources we are hoarding.

I often use the metaphor of the Two-Headed Bird that is mentioned in the Amida Sutra as an example of the dangers of our self-centeredness while living in an interconnected world. Like these two-headed birds, we share the same body (the Earth) with all other living beings. If we kill these other living beings and destroy the environment in pursuit of short term economic gain we as a species will be destroyed as well.

The UN report makes it clear that climate change is already happening and that it would take a gigantic restructuring of the way that we consume, power our machines and live in order to avoid a larger catastrophe. Will we as a species learn to live seeing ourselves as only one part of a gigantic ecosystem or will we continue to wait until Waikiki vanishes beneath the waves?

In Gassho,
Rev. Steven Toyoshima

気候変動に向き合う (前ページより続く)

イビッド・ロイは禅の先生であり、比較宗教学の教授で「Socially active Buddhism、社会的に活動する仏教」について書いています。この本では、気候変動という巨大な問題を、仏教の観点からどのように見て、どのようにアプローチするかを論じています。

「アルコールリクス・アノニマス」のステップのように、問題があり、その責任が人間にあることを理解することが出発点となります。人類が環境に与えたダメージは小さく、天然資源の消費方法を変えるには費用やリスクが大きすぎると私たちを納得させるために、莫大な金額がキャンペーンに費やされてきました。

人間は、生きるために、作るために、食べるために、天然資源を消費します。これは人類が地球上を歩いていた頃から変わらないことですが、テクノロジーの進歩により、以前よりも早く資源を採取することが可能になりました。私たちはグローバル経済になり、地域社会のためだけでなく、世界全体に販売するために資源を採取しています。

「Ecodharma」の中でロイ教授は、寿司や刺身用の生マグロの世界的な需要によって、クロマグロが絶滅の危機に瀕していることを語っています。私たちの食習慣を変えたり、より持続可能な農業を実践する代わりに、企業は巨大な冷凍庫に冷凍マグロを備蓄し、世界の供給が尽きた後にそれを売ってより大きな利益を得ようとしています。私たちはいまだに、人間が地球の主人であり、地球に対して好きなことをする権利があるという考え方で生きています。

私たちは、自分と自然を別のものとしていつまでも健康で若々しくありたいと思うのと同じように、人類はいつま

でも成長し続けることができると思っています。しかし現実には、人類の文明は想像以上に脆弱なものです。

この地球上に生命が存在できるのは、目に見えるもの、見えないものを問わず、無数の生物が相互につながっているからです。私たちは皆、微妙なバランスを保ちながら、お互いに依存し合って生きています。私たちが生き延びるために摂取する動物や植物、飲むために必要な水、呼吸する空気、これらすべてが、私たちが作り出している汚染や私たちがため込んでいる資源によって害され、破壊されています。

私はよく、阿弥陀経に出てくる「共命鳥、ぐみょうちよう」の比喻を、相互につながった世界に生きている私たちの自己中心的な考え方の危険性を示す例えとして使います。この双頭の鳥のように、私たちは他のすべての生きものと同じ体（地球）を共有しています。短期的な経済的利益を追求するために、他の生物を殺し、環境を破壊すれば、私たちの種もまた破壊されてしまいます。

国連の報告書によると、気候変動はすでに起きており、より大きな破局を避けるためには、消費や機械の動力源、生活の仕方を大規模に再構築する必要があることが明らかになっています。

私たち人類は、自分たちが巨大な生態系の一部であることを認識して生きることを学ぶのか、それともワイキキが波の下に消えてしまうのをただ待ち続けたら良いのでしょうか。

合掌
豊島ステイブン



Rev. Steve assists Bishop Ken in chanting at Makiki Japanese Naval Cemetery, where 16 Meiji-era Japanese sailors are buried. The “Chin Kon” (Repose of Souls) memorial pays tribute to all those who sacrificed their lives in Hawaiian waters in service to their countries.

Bon memorial service conducted at Makiki Japanese Naval Cemetery

Japanese sailors from the Meiji era as well as American service men and women who died in the line of duty in Hawaiian waters were remembered at a bon service held Aug. 14 at the Makiki Japanese Naval Cemetery in Honolulu.

Bishop Kenjun Kawawata and Rev. Steve Toyoshima were invited

to officiate the chanting of the *Tanbutsuge* sutra at the annual Hawaii Meijikai ceremony.

Among attendees at the COVID-limited service were the Consul General of Japan in Honolulu and key staff, senior officers of the Japan Maritime, Air and Ground Self Defense Forces assigned to U.S. military component command headquarters in Hawaii as well as other Japanese American community leaders.

Boost your donation through Foodland Give Aloha program

Once again, Foodland and the Western Union Foundation has pledged \$300,000 to match your donation to Higshi Hongwanji and other non-profit organizations up to \$249 per person made at any Foodland store.

Here’s what you need to do to increase your donation dollars to our temple with *Give Aloha* dollars through the month of September:

- At any of the store checkout lanes (or at a service window), show your Mai’kai card. If you don’t have one, no worries! Just ask for one.
- Tell the cashier you’d like to make a *Give Aloha* donation to **Higashi Hongwanji**, or give our 5-digit code number **78784**.



- Inform the cashier of the amount of your donation up to \$249. If you’re buying other groceries at the same time, the amount will be added to your total. No purchase necessary. You can pay in cash, by check or by credit/debit card.
- Keep the receipt for income tax purposes, since it is your official record of your tax-deductible contribution to our 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
- Ask for a duplicate receipt, which you may want to send/email to us so we can acknowledge your gift. Unless you tell us, we won’t know who the donation is from.

Please consider this great opportunity to boost your temple donation—especially during our continuing pandemic situation—with Foodland’s matching gift. But hurry... program ends Sept. 30!

The Buddhist Temples of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii invite you to

Ring Your Bell for Peace Day

Join hundreds of others around the world on Zoom!



Ring your bell for the International Day of Peace Tuesday, Sept. 21 9:01 am

Pre-celebration at 8:30 am on Zoom

Register at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/peaceday2021>

Rene Mansho, Peace Day Committee Chair, (808) 291-6151
renemansho@hawaii.rr.com



Special guest appearance by **Jake Shimabukuro** 2021 Ambassador for Peace Day

With gratitude to our Peace Co-Sponsors: United Nations Association Chapters of Hawaii-Honolulu, University of Hawaii-Manoa & KTUH Radio



Activities calendar modified for September

As hospitals reach capacity with record high levels of COVID-19 infections on Oahu, we've modified our activities schedule for September, and possibly longer. The health and safety of our temple ohana remains uppermost in our minds.

Since most of our activities feature convenient virtual options, we'd like to encourage our members to stay home if possible and participate remotely. If you have questions, please call us at (808) 531-9088 or email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.

Sunday services

Remote viewing strongly encouraged

Shotsuki memorial services Funeral/anniversary services

Social distanced seating up to 24; remote viewing also available

Ukulele band practice Karaoke Night at the Betsuin Basic Buddhism discussion group Larger/Amida Sutra study classes Oku/Tea Time discussion group

Zoom only

Movie night Art of Paper Folding class

Temporarily suspended



Shōhei Ohtani's dominance at the plate, mound and base paths all at the same time continues to amaze baseball fans and non-fans as well worldwide. So can you really blame me for wondering whether maybe—just maybe—there's a connection between the LA Angels' All-Star and the Ōtani descendants of Shinran Shōnin, our denomination's founder.

Without checking family registers or even asking anyone who might have done some research, it's a pretty safe bet that the relationship is no closer than the interconnectedness that we all share. After all, according to Myoji-yurai.net, approximately 130,000 folks share the name Ōtani/Ohtani, the 155th most common name in Japan.

What's more, trying to determine a relationship simply by matching family names is a hit or miss proposition at best. Prior to the Meiji Restoration, the vast majority of Japanese people did not have family names, as surnames were a privilege for feudal lords, samurai and others in the "upper class." As part of feudal reform, everyone was required to register a surname for the *Jinshin Koseki* census of 1872. Many took whatever name they could or were assigned one by village officials, often place names. About 90% of Japanese surnames come from place names.

While I haven't come any closer to satisfying my curiosity about a possible Ōtani family connection, I should feel lucky that we're not looking for a tie with former Seattle Mariners star, Ichiro Suzuki. There are approximately 1,791,000 people named Suzuki, the 2nd most common surname in Japan.

Have you guessed the #1 name in Japan? An estimated 1,862,000 people are named Sato.

—Ken Saiki

RINBAN KAWAWATA

and the
TEMPLE OF ZOOM

DHARMA CLASSES

NEW! AMIDA SUTRA
Study class every 1st Monday
starting at 10:00 am

THE LARGER SUTRA
Study class every 2nd Tuesday
starting at 6:00 pm

仏教入門
毎月第一日曜日 お話と座談会
午後11:30時から

All classes conducted online with Zoom video chat on your computer or mobile device. Please email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org or call (808) 531-9088 for details. There is no charge to participate. All times are Hawaii Standard Time.

SIGN UP TODAY!



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 Wed 5:30pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom only
- 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
- 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
Guest speaker: Rev. Akiko Okada - English/Japanese
- 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
- 9/28 Tue 6:30pm **No Movie Night** this month

WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICES: While viewing our Sunday services virtually on Facebook Live is strongly recommended, in-person attendance at Sunday services temperature is available, up to social-distanced seating capacity of 26. Weekly Sunday services are livestreamed and archived on our public Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission>

OCTOBER

- 10/3 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook/In-person
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 10/3 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
- 10/4 Mon 10 am **Amida Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 10/6 Wed 5:30pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 10/10 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 10/12 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 10/12 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 10/17 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 10/17 Sun 12pm **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 10/21 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 10/24 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live/In-person
- 10/26 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 10/28 Sat 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live

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. Call **531-9088** or email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org for more information.