

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

November 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

WHY WE CELEBRATE HŌ-ON-KŌ

Rev. Steven Toyoshima

Here in Hawaii, the seasons may not change as drastically as they do in California and Japan but the temperature has cooled down quite a bit. In Japan, the cooler weather of fall brings a change in color to the leaves and preparation for the Hō-on-kō holiday at Higashi Honganji temples.

Hō-on-kō is the anniversary of the death of Shinran Shōnin, who lived from 1173 until 1262. Respected as the founder of Jōdo Shinshū, Shinran made Buddhism accessible to everyday people living in ancient Japan. Though he did not intend to found a new school of Buddhism, his descendants and students established the Honganji, the “temple of the Original Vow/Innermost Aspiration.”

In the United States, most of our holidays revolve around the birthdays of important people in our country’s history. Since we are not comfortable talking about death in America, it is unusual for us to observe the day of death for a national holiday. Celebrating the day when Shinran died feels like a more Buddhist way of reflecting on the whole life and experiences of Shinran Shōnin than just the day he happened to be born.

Shinran Shōnin is someone who lived the life of a true seeker, a life full of difficulty and joy. He was a Buddhist monk, an outcast, a family man, a writer who saw himself as some where in-between a layperson and a monk.

He did not see himself as a teacher or leader, but as a simple ignorant person who was fortunate enough to have come in contact with the truth and wisdom of the Nenbutsu. He realized that he had been living his life on a path of “jiriki,” self-powered struggling to engage in the Buddhist practices.

The Nenbutsu that had been passed down to him through his mentor Hōnen Shōnin was the “easy path” that cuts through countless eons of negative karma. For many people of Shinran’s time, keeping the Buddhist precepts and having the discipline and time to do the difficult Buddhist practices was impossible.

The Nenbutsu is something that exists outside of our conscious efforts, it rises up in us when we are harmonizing with the working of Namu Amida Butsu in our lives. In this way it is truly open to everybody no matter what social class, education or circumstances we are living. Shinran Shōnin found a way to collect and present the wisdom of the seven wise men who had studied and transmitted the Nenbutsu through the ages.

It’s because of the life experiences, the difficulties and joys of living his many lives as a layperson, outcast, monk and more that we are able to understand these ancient teachings. In the seminary and in our study classes we are trying to recapture that spirit of being a true seeker, a humble person, a person who is living in

(cont'd on p. 2)



Rev. Steven Toyoshima



Hō-on-kō (cont'd from p. 1)

accord with the Nenbutsu. The gratitude he expresses in his writings is the same that we are filled with during Hō-on-kō. We spend this time every year bowing with respect not just to Shinran

Shōnin, but to the great teachings and teachers that he illuminated for the people who came after.

When he says "I have no other teachings than to fully understand what my true teacher told me, that is, 'one should simply say the Nenbutsu

and be liberated by Amida," he is in his typically humble way pointing the way forward for us to walk in his footsteps with "Namu Amida Butsu" guiding us along that path.

In Gassho,
Rev. Steven Toyoshima

ここハワイでは、カリフォルニアや日本のような急激な季節の変化はありませんが、気温はかなり低くなってきました。日本では、秋になると紅葉が始まり、東本願寺では「報恩講」の準備が始まります。

報恩講は、1173年から1262年まで生きられた親鸞聖人のご命日です。浄土真宗の宗祖として尊敬される親鸞聖人は、仏教を身近なものにしました。親鸞聖人は新しい宗派を創るつもりはありませんでしたが、子孫や弟子たちが「本願寺」を建立しました。

アメリカでは、歴史上の重要人物の誕生日を中心とした祝日が多い事です。アメリカでは、死について語ることに抵抗があるため、御命日を記念することは珍しいことです。親鸞聖人が亡くなった日を記念することは、親鸞聖人がたまたま生まれた日だけではなく、その生涯と経験を振り返る、より仏教的な形であると感じます。

親鸞聖人は、困難と喜びに満ちた、真の求道者の、人生を歩まれた方であり、僧侶であり、流罪された方であり、家庭人であり、作家であり、自分を一般人と僧侶の中間的な存在と考えていました。

師匠である法然上人から頂いたお念



仏は、数え切れないほどの宿業を断ち切る「易行道」だったのです。親鸞の時代の多くの人々にとって、戒律を守り、困難な仏道修行を行うための規律と時間を持つことは難しいことでした。

聖人は自分を先生や指導者としてではなく、幸運にも念仏の真実と智慧に触れた単なる無知な人間として見ていました。聖人は、自分が「自力」の道を歩んできたことに気づきました。

念仏は、私たちの意識的な自力の外存在するもので、私たちが南無阿弥陀仏の働きに調和しているときに、私たちの中に起こってくるのです。

このようにして、念仏は、社会階層、教育、生活環境にかかわらず、誰

にでも開かれたものなのです。親鸞聖人は、時代を超えて念仏を学び伝えてきた七高僧の教えを集めて発表する方法を見つけられました。

聖人の俗人として、また流罪人、僧侶としての多くの人生経験、困難や喜びがあったからこそ、私たちはこの念仏の教えを理解することができるのです。私の卒業した専修学院や勉強会では、真の求道者、謙虚な人、念仏と共に生きている人間として、その精神を再現しようとしています。聖人が著作の中で表現している感謝の気持ちは、私たちが報恩講で感じている事と同じです。親鸞聖人だけでなく、親鸞聖人が後世の人々のために照らし出した偉大な教えや先生方に敬意を表して、毎年この時期に頭を下げて聴聞するのです。

親鸞聖人が「ただ念仏して弥陀にたすけられまいらすべしと、よきひとのおおせをかぶりて、信するほかに別の子細なきなり」とおっしゃったのは、聖人らしい謙虚な姿勢で、「南無阿弥陀仏」を道しるべに、私たちが聖人の足跡をたどって歩むべき道を示しているのだと思います。

合掌、
豊島ステイベン

Join us for Hawaii District Hō-on-kō 2021

Saturday, Nov. 13 at 1 pm (HST)

Sunday, Nov. 14 at 10 am (HST)



No pre-registration required • No charge • Donations welcomed

Click on this Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/30MjtNX>

Meeting ID: 828 6732 2371 • Passcode: 645384

Hō-on-kō Service on Facebook Live

Dharma message by Rev. Dr. Michael Conway

Encountering Buddhism at the Buddhist Temple of Chicago in 1998, Dr. Conway continued studies at Ōtani University in Kyōto, was ordained as a Higashi Honganji minister, received a doctorate in Shinshū studies and has been a full-time lecturer since 2015.

Join us live on our public Facebook page at **Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii** or simply click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/HigashiHongwanjiMission/>. Watch past videos at any time on our Facebook page.

If you have any questions or need help connecting with Zoom or finding us on Facebook, feel free to call us at **(808) 531-9088** or email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.



Going shopping in Japan can be a great experience. Shopping at a *Nomi no Ichi* (literally, “flea market”) at a temple or shrine is an even greater experience as you’re certain to find lots of treasures or bargains. Make that treasures *and* bargains!

In fact, many travelers will time their trips to make sure they get to rummage through the amazing bargains and rare finds at well-known flea markets in Kyoto, such as at Toji temple and Kitano Tenmangu shrine. At those *ichiba* (marketplaces) you can find everything from green tea to *katana* (swords) to kimono and freshly roasted chestnuts.

NOMI NO ICHIBA

**Sat., Dec. 11
9 am - 3 pm**

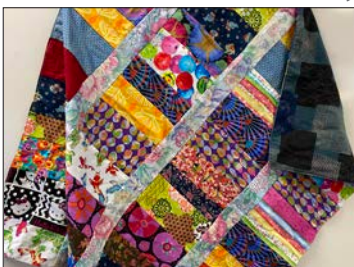
Higashi Hongwanji
Mission of Hawaii
Otani Center
1685 Alaneo St.
(corner N. Kuakini St.)

Our Higashi Hongwanji Nomi no Ichiba will be a scaled-down, controlled-entry version of a sprawling Japanese flea market. We won’t have nearly as much variety but we’re very excited about the extensive array of used goods, collectibles, antiques and clothing we are offering to the public.

Among the treasures we’ve amassed for this Nomi no Ichiba are several kabuki dolls made by a member who is downsizing. She is seeking a new home for her keepsake classical dancers, including Benkei from the famous *Kanjinchō*, and the white- and red-maned parent and cub lions from *Renjishi*.



Other art collectibles include unique modular origami creations by Jeanne Kawawata, our head minister’s wife, who also teaches the technique in her “Art of Paper Folding” classes at the temple. Although the small, personalized classes have been suspended for the past year and a half due to the pandemic, she is eager to start them going again as soon as she gets the green light.



Another member’s hobby is making lap quilts for folks in care homes and day care centers. She has crafted some especially for sale at the Nomi no Ichiba to help raise funds for the temple. Each lap blanket is different and has a design like no other. What a great gift for

someone, especially as we enter our winter season! Come to the sale early for best selection.

Otani Center will house the main collection of items for sale. We truly appreciate the generosity of our members and friends who have donated so many useful and valuable items for our sale. Everything from books to children’s toys and clothing to housewares to sporting equipment will be available, all at bargain prices. You’ll find women’s and men’s clothing—including a wide selection of Reyn’s, Tori Richard and other quality brand aloha shirts—accessories and an international boutique with kimono and obi for sale.

Also, author Chiemi Souen will be on hand for the sale and signing of her new book, *Ikigai: Life’s Purpose*.

Outside you’ll be able to visit our open-air tents and stroll through tables of homegrown potted plants and fresh produce.



Featured garden items include cranberry hibiscus acetosella, queen’s tears (lobster claw) and double bird of paradise, seldom sold commercially. Also, you’ll want to pick up eye-catching *kokedama*,

succulents and luscious hanging plants to use as unique gifts or dress up your own home for the holidays while helping the temple at the same time.

Shopping makes one hungry, so we’ll have some ready-to-eat foods and refreshments outside as well. At this time we’re not certain just what kind of foods our “pop-up retail event” will be allowed to sell, but at the very least, we’ll have some pre-packaged items available.

Save the date now: Sat., Dec. 11 for Nomi no Ichiba!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Fri., Dec. 10 setup from 9 am

Place items according to floor plan

Sat., Dec. 11 sale day from 9 am

Sales, security, utility, clean up

Volunteers must show proof of vaccination & will have opportunity to purchase early.

To volunteer or if you have questions:

Email: betsuin@hhbt-hi.org
or call (808) 531-9088



Calling all seasoned backyard growers and plant enthusiasts

We are accepting plant and produce donations. Please drop off during normal temple hours 9 am - 5 pm daily and no later than 3 pm Thursday, Dec. 9.



New C&C rules allow return of some large gatherings & events

A new COVID-19 emergency order for Honolulu eases capacity rules for several categories of large events. Rules vary depending on whether the event is indoors or outdoors and seated or interactive (i.e., includes mingling, food, beverages). The key tradeoff in allowing the return of big events is COVID-19 vaccination for all attendees.

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* has reported that 86% of Oahu residents eligible for the COVID inoculation are fully vaccinated and 95% have received at least one dose.

The new rules issued on Oct. 27 allow indoor interactive events to increase attendance to 50% of capacity of facilities for activities such as weddings and funerals as long as all attendees are fully vaccinated and appropriate COVID-19 mitigation plans are followed.

Other activities and uses of our temple facilities are covered as well. We'll publish our new guidelines once they're ready.

The relaxed proclamation permits and provides guidelines for "indoor and outdoor pop-up retail events," such as our long-postponed Nomi no Ichiba flea market. Since we'll be ready and able to conform fully with the conditions for such activities, we've set the date for the event on Saturday, December 11.

We look forward to when we can all gather once again in-person for all our activities. Meanwhile, let's all roll up our sleeves and get those shots in arms!

November distribution anticipated for 2022 Hawaii District calendars

Otoki after-service meals have always been an opportunity to enjoy the Dharma and good food together. The soon-to-be-published Hawaii District calendars for 2022 feature several of these otoki dishes, including favorite recipes shared by members.



The calendar features recipes for otoki meals, nostalgic plantation dishes, bon dance food and other traditional favorites.

The calendars, suitable for wall hanging or lying flat for writing in daily reminders, are scheduled for distribution later this month. Watch for an announcement of when calendars will be available. Each Higashi Hongwanji temple in Hawaii will have a supply for its members and friends.

Besides being a useful Nenbutsu teaching tool and a way to keep you up-to-date on various local temple events, the calendars are also part of each temple's fundraising efforts, which we hope you will help support, especially during these challenging times.

Email us at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org or call (808) 531-9088 to order additional copies to share with others.

In Tora-san's Grand Scheme, a trip to Hawaii runs into a snag

Tora-san (Kiyoshi Atsumi) wins big at the horse races and returns home to Shibamata by taxi from Nagoya. He arranges to take his Aunt Tsune and Uncle Tatsuzo on a trip to Hawaii as repayment for their kindnesses, but on the morning of their departure, they discover that the president of the travel agency has made off with their money. Afraid they'll be the laughing stock of the neighborhood, they sneak back home and pretend they are on the trip, not turning on the lights.

However, the scheme unravels when a thief, expecting everyone to be away on a trip, enters Toraya!

A month later, Tora-san notices Haruko (Komaki Kurihara), a kindergarten teacher who's renting a room upstairs, and falls in love, not knowing about her boyfriend...

Director: Shunichi Kobayashi. Stars Chieko Baisho as Sakura, Chieko Misaki as Tsune, Shin Morikawa as Tatsuzo.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Nov. 23, 92 min. Color, Japanese audio, English subtitles. Admission free. Refreshments.

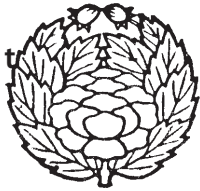
新・男はつらいよ (しん・おとこはつらいよ)

競馬で大穴を当てた寅さん(渥美清)は、タクシーで名古屋から柴又へ帰り、恩返しとばかりにおいちゃん夫婦にハワイ旅行を手配した。喜ぶおいちゃん達の出発の日、旅行会社の社長に金を持ち逃げされたことが発覚。近所の手前から電気もつかないでひっそり暮らすことになった。ところが留守の筈のとらやに泥棒が入ったから大変!それから一ヶ月、寅さんは自分の部屋に下宿している美しい幼稚園の先生・春子



(栗原小巻)を見てウツトリ。恋人がいるのも知らずに日増しに熱をあげるのだけだ。

監督:小林俊一、諏訪さくら:倍賞千恵子、車つね:三崎千恵子、車竜造:森川信、公開:1970年、カラー、言語:日本語、字幕:英語、映時間:92分、11月23日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 11/1 Mon 10 am **Amida Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 11/3 Wed 5:30pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 11/7 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - Facebook/In-person
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 11/7 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
- 11/9 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 11/9 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 11/13 Sat 1 pm **Hawaii District Hōonkō Gathering** - Zoom
Guest lecturer: Rev. Dr. Michael Conway
- 11/14 Sun 10 am **Hawaii District Hōonkō service** - FB Live only
Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Conway
- 11/18 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 11/21 Sun 10 am **Sunday service** - Facebook Live
- 11/21 Sun 12pm **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 11/21 Sun 12 pm **The Art of Paper Folding** class - Ōtani Center
- 11/23 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom
- 11/23 Tue 6:30pm **Movie night: Tora-san's Grand Scheme (1970)**
- 11/28 Sun 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live

SUNDAY SERVICES: In-person attendance limited up to social distanced capacity of 26. Temperature check and face coverings required for the health and safety of all attendees. Recommend viewing of services livestreamed on our public Facebook page. Videos available for viewing at any time.

DECEMBER

- 12/1 Wed 5:30pm **Karaoke Night at the Betsuin** - Zoom
- 12/5 Sun 9:30 am **Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day service**
Zoom (No service at Betsuin)
- 12/6 Mon 10 am **Amida Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 12/10 Fri 9 am **Nomi no Ichiba** setup - volunteers wanted
- 12/11 Sat 9 am **Nomi no Ichiba** flea market at Otani Center
(until 3 pm) Volunteers wanted
- 12/12 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service** - FB Live/In-person
Dharma message: Rinban Kenjun Kawawata
- 12/12 Sun 12pm **Betsuin board meeting** - Zoom
- 12/14 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele band practice** - Zoom/In-person
- 12/14 Tue 6 pm **The Larger Sutra** study class (English) - Zoom
- 12/16 Thu 6 pm **Okō/Tea time gathering** - Zoom
- 12/19 Sun 10 am **Ōsōji** - Top-to-bottom temple cleaning
(No service at Betsuin)
- 12/26 Sun TBA **Virtual mochitsuki** - Facebook Live
(No service at Betsuin)
- 12/28 Tue 10 am **Shinran Shōnin memorial service** - FB Live
- 12/31 Fri 5:30pm **New Year's Eve service - Joya-e (除夜会)**
Bell ringing 108 times following the service
Facebook Live
- 1/1/22 Sat 10 am **New Year's Day service - Shushō-e (修正会)**
Facebook Live

COLUMBARIUM OPEN DAILY: The columbarium is open for visitation and floral offerings daily from 9 am to 5 pm.