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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

4
April 2013

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 Jodo Shinshu tradition of Buddhism.

A registered 501(c)3 organization

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Editor: Ken Saiki

HANAMATSURI BUDDHA DAY CELEBRATION

DID YOU WALK AND TALK AT BIRTH?

RINBAN KENJUN KAWAWATA

As you know, April is Buddha Day month and we celebrate Buddha's birth. Shakyamuni Buddha was born in a place called Lumbini Garden, where many trees, plants and flowers bloomed in glory. So we call the celebration of Buddha's birth "Hanamatsuri," or Flower Festival.

Also it is said that when the Buddha was born, heavenly beings appeared and poured sweet rain from the sky to bless his birth. That's why we celebrate Buddha's birth by decorating a Hanamido altar and pouring sweet tea during Hanamatsuri.

This is one sign that spring has come. Also this is a time to celebrate our own birth and life, and think about the meaning of birth and life.

It is said that when Buddha was born, he walked seven steps and said, "Above the heaven and below the heaven, I am the only noble one."

Are you surprised? Buddha walked and talked right after he was born! Usually newborn babies don't walk and talk. Do you remember when you were born? Did you walk? Did you talk?

I do not think that Buddha walked and talked at birth, either, but he was such a great teacher for everybody, people who listened and followed his teaching made up this story praising him for his achievement.

Walking seven steps signifies achieving the purpose of life. Saying "Above the heaven, below the heaven, I am the only noble one" means "I received precious life." It is very hard to receive human life. From the Three Treasures: "Difficult is it to receive life in human form, now we are living it."

"Above the heaven, below the heaven, I am the only noble one."

Our lives share the same quality as Buddha's life. Each life is precious and important because we get only one chance to live it right now. There are no other chances.

In tea ceremony, there is a saying, "Ichi-go ichi-e" (一期一会), literally, "one chance, one meeting," or a once-in-a-lifetime encounter. People meeting for tea will say they share that time only once and cannot experience that same time again. That time will never come back.



(Continued on next page)

Hanamatsuri

(continued from page 1)

Rev. Gyomei Kubose, the founder of Buddhist Temple of Chicago, wrote a poem that goes like this:

"Every time is the last time.

We meet only once in a lifetime.

I meet you today but who knows if we are able to meet the next day.

Every day is the last day."

You see your friend today but you don't know if you'll see him or her tomorrow. Therefore every meeting is a new chance and last chance to see your friend.

Our birth, life and living are very important and precious. Also, it is very hard to encounter Buddha's teaching. So we have to really appreciate our birth and life that we are living now.

Each individual life is unique. You are the only one who can live your life, and it can only be lived right now, not at some other time. That is why your life is precious and important. Just as important, we must realize that other lives are precious and important, too. We have to respect each other.

The celebration of Buddha Day is not only the celebration of the birth of one person who lived in history. Buddha Day is an expression of our joy in being able to encounter the teachings of the Buddha. Let us reflect on the Buddha's life and his teachings in our own lives.

"Happy birthday, Buddha, and happy birthday, everyone."

Thank you in Gassho

花まつり

河和田賢淳

この4月はお釈迦様のお誕生をお祝いする花まつりの月です。花御堂をお飾りし、誕生仏に甘茶を濯ぎ（そそぎ）お祝いいたします。

お釈迦さまは2500年前昔の北インド、今日のネパール領でルンビ二園という場所でお生まれになられました。お釈迦さまがお生まれになった時、空からは甘露の雨が降り、花々が咲き開き、そして大地が震動した、またお釈迦さまは生まれてすぐに七歩歩かれ、「天上天下我独尊」、「この世界で私は本当に尊い存在だ」云われました。この世界に生まれ出るといことは希中の稀なことなのです。私どもは父母を縁として誕生しました。この縁を頂くことは想像もつかないほど希なことです。だからこの世に生を頂く事は大変尊いことなのです。お釈迦様はそのことを「我一人尊し」と言われたのです。そしていただいたと尊いいのちをむなしく送りたくない、それが迷いと苦の世界、六道輪廻の世界を超えて、さとりの世界に歩む7歩目の歩みを表しているのです。

私ども人間は生まれてすぐ動物のように歩けませんし、また話す事もできません。偉大な方の御誕生をこのような話をもって讃えてきたのです。

普通赤ちゃんが生まれた時、赤ちゃんは大声を出して泣き叫びます、その大声は、今この世に大事な尊いいのちをいただいという叫びであり、また大地が震えるとはその感動でありましょう。私ども本当に感動した時私ども全身が震え、全世界が揺れ動くのです。

この誕生の感動は私どもの願いのあらわれです。実は私のいのちは生まれです前より生まれたいと願っていたと仏教では考えるのです。だから生まれた時、大きな声で泣きその感動をあらわすのです。そして誕生後も私どもはこの願いに後押しされながら生きるのです。いのちを無駄にせず生きたい、いのちを満足させたい。このような願いをもち、またこのような願いをかけられ生きているのです。それが六道輪廻を超える歩み、苦を乗り越えて生きる歩み、すなわち本当の事を知ってゆこうとする歩みとなり、真実の世界へ歩み7歩目の歩みとなるのです。私どもはこのような願いによって生かされているのです。この願いを本願と申します。真実に目覚めて生きよと願いがかけられているのです。それがお念仏、南無阿弥陀仏となってあらわれているのです。ですから生まれた瞬間の「おぎゃー」という感動の表現は、本願に遇ったというお念仏の叫びと同じことです。

皆様とともにお釈迦様のお誕生をお祝いし、私どもの「誕生の意味を、そして生きる喜び」について聞いてきたいと思えます。

どうぞ4月14日午前10時より別院花まつり法要がお勤めされます。ご家族お揃いでお参りください。

合掌、河和田賢淳



Betsuin board members flanked by temple ministers: From left: Rev. Makoto Honda, Treasurer Ed Nakano, Vice Chair Jonathan Tani, Chair Faye Shigemura, Secretary Debbie Saiki, Directors Ken Saiki, Peggy Arita and Jim Hiramkawa, and Bishop Ken Kawawata.

General Membership Meeting & Shinnen Enkai held Feb. 24

The first order of business at the General Membership Meeting was a revision of the by-laws to include the address of our *honzan*, or head temple, in Kyoto to avoid confusion with any other group which might be known as Higashi Hongwanji.

Next was the election of officers and board members. Re-elected were Chairperson Faye Shigemura, Vice Chair Jonathan Tani, Secretary Debra Saiki, Treasurer Edmund Nakano and Assistant Treasurer Faye Shigemura. Advisor is Bishop Kenjun Kawawata.

New members elected to the board of directors were Kenneth Saiki, James Hiramkawa and Debra Saiki, joining old board members Peggy Arita and Jean Tanaka.

The officers and board members offered incense to confirm, before all members present, their commitment to serving in their respective offices.

Members wishing to bring any concerns before the board should contact the temple office. We urge everyone to participate in temple activities and operations. After all,

this is your temple.

Following adjournment we dined on Chinese dishes catered from the popular Golden Lion Restaurant in Pearl City.

Mahalo to Jan Lee for the dessert and also for the decorations and photography; Miki Kishida, James &



Above: Faye Shigemura, Kei Tsuji, Bishop Kawawata & Rev. Maeda led group singing of Japanese doyo children's melodies. Below: Tables completed for prizes in the ball toss game.



Florence Hiramkawa, Sadao & Kazue Uechi and Dennis & Debra Saiki for door prizes (Dennis also for bingo and karaoke and the Uechis for the *sake*); and the Daruma Serenaders for the entertainment.

There are many more people who contribute to the success of an event like this and we apologize if we failed to include your contribution. We'd like to see more members attend this annual event. Plan to keep the last Sunday in February next year open and meet your fellow temple members.

Oahu retreat at Palolo temple

Check the enclosed flier for the registration details for the upcoming local retreat for members and friends from all temples on Oahu. The retreat will be held on Saturday, April 13, with a start time of 10 am at Palolo Hongwanji. Lunch is included. Call the Betsuin if you need transportation to Palolo.

Classic Movie Night returns!

Tired of shelling out from \$7.50 to \$10.75 at your nearest multiplex just to watch a movie?

Come to our Classic Movie Night to be entertained by some wonderful favorites from the past, movies that you are sure to enjoy seeing again (or watch for the first time, if you missed them back when)! Best of all, admission is FREE!

First up on Tuesday, April 23, is the hilarious 1985 ramen shop comedy, *Tampopo* (タンポポ), directed by Juzo Itami and starring Tsutomu Yamazaki, Nobuko Miyamoto, Koji Yakusho & Ken Watanabe. Japanese sound track with English subtitles. Showtime is 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Watch for more classic Oldies but Goodies, coming soon to a screen near you!

Shotsuki:

What does it mean?

Every month at the Betsuin, we hold a shotsuki service to allow family members to honor and pay respects to loved ones who passed away in that month in a past year. It's usually held on the first Sunday but because of Buddha Day celebrations in April, this month's shotsuki service is on the third Sunday.

But what is shotsuki anyway? Shotsuki means month of a person's death. The kanji characters that make up shotsuki are "shō" (祥), which means "happiness" or "good fortune," and "tsuki" (月), or "month." In other words, "happy month."

祥
月

Shō'tsu-ki

But is it really OK to consider the month we lost a loved one a *happy* month?

Actually, annual shotsuki services provide a fortuitous opportunity for families to gather together each year to remember family members who came before us—our parents, grandparents and others who passed away—and show our gratitude for being on the receiving end of the wonderful gift of life. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't even exist.

And as we remember and honor our loved ones, regardless of our own personal religious preference or beliefs, we have the good fortune and opportunity to receive Buddhist teachings simply because we are in attendance at the shotsuki service.

What better way is there to keep their memories alive than by remembering and appreciating their contributions to our lives today. Yes, celebrating the lives of those we lost is truly something to be happy about.

SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR APRIL

Our April 21 shotsuki service is our monthly remembrance of our temple family members who passed away in April of a past year. At this month's shotsuki service we honor and pay respects to:

Henry K. Fukunaga	Clarence T. Motoyama	Richard O. Sorida
Kingo Gushikuma	Henry K. Mukai	Laura Sugai
Harriet Y. Gushikuma	Myles M. Nakatsu	Yutaka Sumida
Chotaro Hane	Mitsue Nakayama	Lorraine T. Sumiye
Suna M. Harada	Violet Y. Nakayama	Francis Torao Suzuki
Yoshiko Harauchi	Juka Nishimura	Marian Taguma
Shizuko Hayase	Mume Nishimura	Tatsue Takeshita
Yoshimi Hayashi	Shizue Nishioka	Shigeru Tanaka
Takeo Higa	Yuku Ohara	Takeshi Tanaka
Harue Iwaki	George M. Omura	Umeno Tanijo
Ralph Kikuo Kaizuka	Rodney Yuji Oshiro	George M. Tokunaga
Dennis K. Kanemori	Takashi Otsuka	Edward M. Tokunaga
George Makoto Kaya	Ruth Ayako Pacheco	Dorothy F. Torikawa
Jean Misao Kobata	Alice Sueko Ramos	Robert K. Toyama
Uto Koja	Kiyoto Saiki	Haruko Tsuda
Herbert S. Kondo	Keith Mitsugi Sato	Matsue Tsuji
Harry M. Kumamoto	Chieko Sekiya	Richard M. Tsukiyama
Edwin S. Matsuoka	Take Serikawa	Koichi Uesato
Classie A. McForland	Ushi Shimabukuro	Jean Shizuko Uyema
Harue Miike	Miyoko O. Shinkawa	Mitsuyo Watanabe
Misue Miyamoto	Shigeru Shirabe	Thomas M. Yamamoto
Chieko Moriguchi	Miyoko Shiramizu	Tamayo K. Yoshimoto

(Listing includes members from past 25 years only)

While shotsuki services are observed every year, special *nenki hoyo* memorial services are held during certain auspicious years. These years include the 1st anniversary, followed by memorial services for the 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 50th years, held during the year prior to the actual anniversary date.

Did you know?

Memorial services can be held at your home.

In Hawaii, people usually schedule their memorial services to be held at the temple. In Japan, however, most people choose to have memorial services conducted at their homes.

Whether it's because of health, mobility difficulties, lack of transportation, convenience or just preferring the comfort of your own home, the ministers will be more than happy to accommodate your preference and come to you to conduct services at your location.

Either way is fine. Please call the Betsuin office at 531-9088 for information about or assistance with scheduling a memorial service.



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

APRIL 2013

4/7	Sun	9 am	HBC Buddha Day service Joint Hawaii Buddhist Council service Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
4/11	Thu	7 pm	Basic & Shin Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
4/13	Sat	10 am	Local retreat at Palolo Hongwanji Betsuin, Palolo & Kaneohe temples, Call Betsuin office if you need a ride.
4/14	Sun	10 am	Hanamatsuri service (Buddha Day)
4/14	Sun	12 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class 現代語で仏教を聞こう (日本語) led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara Conference Room
4/16	Tue	7 pm	O-ko: Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
4/21	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki service
4/21	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara Conference Room
4/23	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Tampopo (115 min.) Japanese audio/English subtitles Fukuhara Conference Room
4/28	Sun	10 am	Sunday service

MAY 2013

5/5	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki service
5/6 - 5/12			11th World Dobo Convention/Tour Kyoto - Shinhodaka Onsen - Shirakawa-go - Hida-Takayama
5/11	Sat	10 am	Study class: What on Earth is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs Fukuhara Conference Room
5/12	Sun	10 am	Mother's Day family service
5/16	Thu	7 pm	Basic & Shin Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata Fukuhara Conference Room
5/19	Sun	10 am	Shinran Shonin's Birthday service
5/19	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara Conference Room
5/21	Tue	7 pm	O-ko: Informal dharma discussion Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji
5/26	Sun	10 am	All War Victims' Memorial service
5/28	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Letters from Iwo Jima (140 min.) Japanese audio/English subtitles Fukuhara Conference Room

Everyone is welcome to join in on our sutra chanting at 7 am daily (except Sundays) in the Betsuin Main Hall.