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harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

11
November 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

DHARMA STUDY CENTER

Bishop Ken Kawawata

In November 2016, Higashi Honganji Hawaii District will observe Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service. At the same time we will also celebrate the Hawaii Betsuin's 100th Anniversary.

As one of the centennial commemorative services and events, Hawaii Betsuin has established the Dharma Study Center, which will provide many lectures and classes for the members and dharma friends who study and learn Buddhism and Shin Buddhism in a classroom style. Also included as an integral part of the Dharma Study Center are publications and training future ministers and minister's assistants. Thus the Dharma Study Center will have an important role for our future and present religious educational programs.



This fall, the Dharma Study Center will present the first lecture series on November 5th, 7th, 12th and 14th. To present the series, we invited Dr. George Tanabe, Jr., who is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

He holds a B.A. degree from Willamette University, a M.Div. (Master of Divinity) from Union Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. His research interests range from medieval and modern religions in Japan to Buddhism in Hawaii, and his books have been published by university presses at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Hawaii. Most recently, he and his wife, Willa, published *Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawaii: An Illustrated Guide* (UH Press).

In 2007, he received the Japanese Foreign Minister's Award (Gaimu Daijin Shō) for the promotion of cultural understanding between Japan and America. He is currently the President of BDK Hawaii.

The topic for this lecture series is "Finding Harmony in Chaos." Dr. Tanabe will present how Sakyamuni, Bimba, who is Sakyamuni's wife, Prince Shotoku and a grandmother in Hawaii find harmony and peace in the chaos of their ordinary lives.

So in reflecting the way of their lives, we will find peace and harmony in our busy everyday lives.

I would like to invite you to attend this first lecture series and make it as a kick-off commemoration event for Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service and our Centennial Celebration in November 2017.

Thank you in Gassho,
Kenjun Kawawata

Hawaii District 2014 Calendar

Those of us who are fortunate to live in Hawaii especially appreciate the bounties nature has provided us, from lush greenery, expansive white sand beaches, clear blue skies, year-round warm weather, pure water and a host of other natural wonders.

Thus it's no surprise that we chose Living in Harmony with Nature as the theme for our 2014 Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District calendar.

The Buddhist Statement on Ecology from 1998 says, in part, "We need to live as the Buddha taught us to live, in peace and harmony

with nature, but we must start with ourselves. If we are going to save this planet we need to seek a new ecological order, to look at the life we lead and then work together for the benefit of all; unless we work together no solution can be found. By moving away from self-centeredness, sharing wealth more, being more responsible



for ourselves, and agreeing to live more simply, we can help decrease much of the suffering in the world."

You'll find many examples of living in harmony with nature in the calendar, with a short dharma message for each month and illustrated by full-color photographs mostly taken by Higashi Hongwanji members.

February, for example, features a quote by noted Shin Buddhist educator, Atsushi Nobukuni: いのち、みな生きられるべし or "All lives are precious to be lived," with a seedling photo by Jim Dote of the Kaneohe temple.

We are requesting a minimum donation to help us defray costs of printing and mailing the Hawaii District calendar. If you would like additional copies, please call us at the Betsuin office at 531-9088.

Bazaar! Bazaar! Bazaar! Pau! Pau! Pau!

by Faye Shigemura

Of all the fundraising activities at the Betsuin, the most labor-intensive is the bazaar. It's difficult to cut too many corners with a bazaar.

The work starts far in advance gathering items, sorting, checking to see if they're in working order, and, of course, pricing. Often we need to clean the donated items, which is time-consuming, but most challenging task is pricing. What one person says should sell for \$10, another says \$1, which is amusing when you think about it. The \$10 people probably have an emotional attachment, know value when they see it or are pack rats, even with other people's junk. Imagine that, worrying about other people's junk! I feel their pain.

People helping with our Sept. 29

fundraiser included Debra and Dennis Saiki, John Ishikawa, Amy Ishikawa, Ken Saiki, Alice and Joe Nunogawa, Susan Kanemoto, Wendy Ann Kuwahara, Joyce Masaki, Karen Kamihara, Helen Suzuki's granddaughter Allison, Eric Wong, the two hard-working sisters, Pauline and Barbara Kanehiro, who sew, knit and crochet beautiful handmade items and make greeting cards, Bishop and Jeanne Kawawata, Rev. Honda, Rev. Bansaka, and many, many donors who generously took the time to bring their gently used, no longer needed items for donation.

There were other large events the same weekend, like the Senior Fair, Makiki Christian Church bazaar, and the Wahiawa temple bazaar, which may have contributed to the light traffic at ours. But we priced our items to sell, so buyers came, went home and came back with friends and family. One lady came twice, both times filling her back

seat with clothes, shoes and purses to send back to lucky relatives in the Philippines. One local mother with two kids in tow went back home to bring her husband to pick out a bicycle for their son. Neighbors from over the fence came back with more neighbors.

It was a casual, fun day, and we got to meet more folks than in the past, when we were too busy to chat.

This year we put our bazaar on Craigslist, as it is said to be the #1 place nowadays to go for information about garage sales and bazaars. We also requested announcements on KIKU-TV and KBF. We were too late to put in an ad for the Saturday paper but people don't seem to use want ads in newspapers like they did before.

Thank you, everyone, and as always, we wouldn't have been able to succeed if not for all who helped see this fundraiser to a successful end. *Domo arigato gozaimashita.*



Our Betsuin bazaar drew a sparse but steady stream of bargain hunters to Otani Center hoping to give a second life for gently used items.

News on the Betsuin Wireless



Sunday School Update

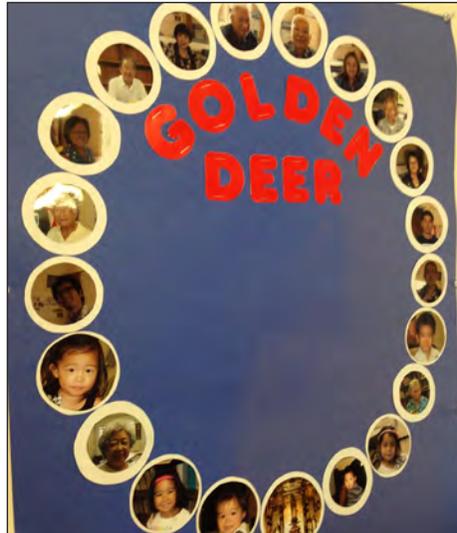
We started our Sunday Service Golden Deer Program with making *ojuzu* for the children. The children were busy counting and stringing the beads on the elastic. Adding a cord as its tassel completed the *ojuzu*.



A big construction paper *ojuzu* with photos of the children and members of the temple is on our temple bulletin board. With Ho-on-ko behind us and Thanksgiving just around the corner, we will soon have a Shinran Shonin project and turkeys added to our board.

A special thanks to Joyce Masaki, who donated tissue, construction

paper, paint brushes, scissors, markers, stickers, stamps along with a gift card to Barnes and Noble Booksellers. With the gift card we were able to purchase "The Giving Tree," "Rainbow Fish" and "It's Okay To Be Different."



A giant construction paper *ojuzu* adorns the Betsuin bulletin board in the temple hallway.

There are several Sunday school outings planned in the upcoming months. They include trips to the Honolulu Zoo and Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe.

Sunday school classes are held on the first and third Sundays of each month, starting at 10 am with the regular service. The children are excused from the service after sutra chanting.

If you have children or know of anyone with children who may benefit from our Sunday School program, please call us at the Betsuin office at 531-9088 for more information.

Holiday Activities Schedule

During the December year-end holiday period, some of our regular monthly activities will be suspended.

Ukulele/band practice and movie night will not be held on Dec. 24 and no recitation circle on Dec. 28. Our regular schedule resumes in January.

SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR NOVEMBER

Our November 3 service is our monthly shotsuki remembrance of our temple family members who

Teruo Abe	Masaru Kasuga
Laurence Noriyuki Anami	Patrick Otoji Kawamoto
Masao Fujimoto	Teiko Kawamoto
Yoshi Hoshina Fujimoto	Mildred Ayako Kawamoto
Kikue Fujiwara	Yoshino Kawatachi
Florence Kiyoko Fukuda	Ayame Kaya
Harold Tatsumi Fukumoto	Sumiko Lilian Kimoto
Matuye Fukunaga	Dorothy Haruko Kohagura
James Tomaru Gono	Goro Koizumi
Tadashi Harold Hanai	Thomas Minoru Kudo
Shina Hane	Tomeyo Kuratani
Kameko Harakuni	Cindy Mitsuko Laturneau
Yuri N. Oi Hashimoto	Misao Florence Luka
James Hiromi Hashimoto	Michiyo Marie Maekawa
Raymond Kazuo Hirata	Masahito Manabe
Tatsuo Ikeda	Grace Fusae Matsuda
Matsuyo Ikejiri	Paul Isami Miyasaki
Dorothy Tsuruyo Kaizuka	Walter Tadayoshi Moriguchi

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

passed away in November of a past year. The following listing shows family members from the past 25 years.

Kenji Nakasone	Hatsuyo Shioi
Sayoko Nakasone	Helen Shizuko Shoji
Roy Tatsuo Nakayama	Sueo Shojinaga
Edward Yokichi Nikaido	Hideo Herbert Sumiye
Bessie Jueko Nishida	Hatsune Tagawa
Kiku Nojima	Ellen Masako Takaoka
Mitsuru Ogata	Hisashi Harold Tanoue
Shirley S. Oi	May Sueko Tasaki
Violet Kuniko Okano	Kikuyo Wada
Hatsume Ono	James Kiyoshi Watanabe
Kimie Ono	Shigeo Yamamoto
Marian Somie Oshiro	Takeo Yamanuha
John Rogers	Koichi Yamashita
Y. Sakurada	Patric Yoshio Yamura
Kuwasaie "Chappie" Senaha	Francis George Yonekura
Doris Matsuko Shimabuku	Nanae Yonekura
Iyono Masuoka Shimizu	Rick Masumi Yoshino
Dorothy Asayo Shinbo	Ruth Kiyome Zukeran

3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 50th years. These services are usually held prior to the actual anniversary date. Please consult a minister for more information on arranging a special service by calling 531-9088.

Betsuin Ho-on-ko 2013 Recap

Ho-on-ko for 2013 at the Betsuin was observed over two days: an all-day gathering at Otani Center *kaikan* on Saturday, Oct. 19, and Gomanza service, which is a memorial service for Shinran Shonin, in the *hondo*, or Main Hall, on Sunday.

We were honored to have Overseas District Abbot Choyu Otani and his wife, Satika, present for our Ho-on-ko observance, having traveled from Brazil to officiate at our founder's memorial service.

Our guest lecturer for Ho-on-ko was Rev. Ken Yamada, Berkeley Higashi Honganji temple minister.

Rev. Yamada studied to become a Jodo Shinshu minister following

His insightful lectures covered the foundation of Buddhism, in awakening, discovering truth by realizing the impermanence of everything, and introspection, looking inwards toward one's self and ego, rather than the usual chasing happiness by attempting to adjust outside conditions or acquiring things.

This goes against the behavior of our ego, which mightily protects itself and takes the position of being blameless, always right and unchanging.

Rev. Yamada repeatedly pointed his index fingers to his temples to remind us, "This is where it (Buddhism) happens."

On Sunday, Rev. Yamada's dharma message at the Gomanza service was an engaging and powerful exposition on the honesty and sincerity of Shinran, as he described himself in his later years as being different on the inside, despite what was fabulously presented on the outside.

Rev. Yamada described several more examples of how Shinran exposed the hypocritical nature of himself, open for everyone to see. There are no exceptions on the path of awakening: everyone is student.

As an attendee of the Betsuin Ho-on-ko 2013, for me the teaching became a bright mirror.

— Jonathan Tani



Rev. Yamada discusses the Three Dharma Seals: impermanence, non-self (oneness, or interdependence) and Nirvana.

graduation from the University of California at Berkeley, but instead began a career as a writer and reporter for national publications. Then after 17 years as a journalist, he "awakened to the truth" and returned to his original mission in life to become a Shin Buddhist minister.

Rev. Yamada's presentation, "Help! I Need Buddhism Now!" was well-received by the sangha, at least partially because the messages were in modern-day context and easy-for-us-to-understand terms, punctuated with humorous anecdotes and parables to simplify difficult concepts.

Ken Yamada = Kamen Hero

I had heard of Ken Yamada when he was just plain ol' Ken Yamada. At that time, he seemed to be an enthusiastic seeker on the Shin Buddhist path. I'm a relatively new student, having re-joined the temple in 1995 to be close to my mother, whom I had recently lost at the time and painfully missed.

So who was this Ken Yamada, always with a ready smile, who seemed to know more about Shin Buddhism than most? I must not have been curious enough about him, as I did not make any effort to find out more about this man. In fact, I knew none of the ministers. There were enough questions in my mind about Jodo Shinshu and the Four Noble Truths, not to mention the Eight-Fold Path with Ananda and Prince Shotoku thrown in somewhere.

This weekend, we observed the 2013 Ho-on-ko at the Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Betsuin. Rev. Ken Yamada was the invited speaker. I should have knocked myself on the head with

my own purse. I should have kicked myself with someone else's shoe. I should have given myself yard duty for the rest of the week for not making that extra effort to introduce myself to him earlier when I first heard his name. Ken impressed us all at the Betsuin Ho-on-ko retreat. He was such a great teacher of the Dharma, and I quickly became a fan, as I imagine others did as well.

The "pictures" Ken painted were fresh to our ears, and his approach was new. He spoke words which enabled us to better understand concepts and create our own "pictures" to which we could relate. Ken's message was effectively delivered to our American ears.

I look forward to Ken's next visit to Hawaii. I urge you to join us when he comes to lecture again. You will be inspired and convinced, as we all in attendance this past weekend were, that we're headed in the right direction and need to continue to follow our own Jodo Shinshu paths.

— Faye Shigemura

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Dharma Study Center

presents a four-part lecture series

Finding Harmony in Chaos

by

Dr. George Tanabe, Jr.

Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii

Dates: **Tuesday, Nov. 5** (Part 1)
Thursday, Nov. 7 (Part 2)
Tuesday, Nov. 12 (Part 3)
Thursday, Nov. 14 (Part 4)

Time: **7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Place: **Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu

Fee: **\$9.00** per lecture



In this four-part series, we will explore how Sakyamuni, Bimba (Sakyamuni's wife), Shotoku Taishi and a grandmother in Hawaii all found harmony in the chaos of their ordinary lives. In each of these cases, we will see how chaos can provide an opportunity for finding harmony in our everyday lives through some of the basic teachings of Buddhism.

Questions? Call 531-9088 or email betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.

Dr. George Tanabe, Jr.

Dr. Tanabe is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Religion at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He holds a B.A. degree from Willamette University, M.Div. (Master of Divinity) from Union Theological Seminary and Ph.D. from Columbia University. His research interests range from medieval and modern religions in Japan to Buddhism in Hawai'i, and his books have been published by university presses at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Hawai'i. Most recently, he and his wife, Willa, published *Japanese Buddhist Temples in Hawai'i: An Illustrated Guide* (UH Press). In 2007, he received the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Award (Gaimu Daijin Shō) for his efforts in promoting cultural understanding between Japan and the U.S. He is currently the President of BDK Hawai'i.

✂ Clip and return

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Dharma Study Center

Finding Harmony in Chaos • November 5, 7, 12 & 14, 2013 • 7:00 pm

YES! I'd like to attend the lecture series, "Finding Harmony in Chaos," presented by Dr. George Tanabe.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, HI 96817 • Phone: (808) 531-9088 • Fax: (808) 531-3265 • Email: betsuin@hhbt-hi.org

여보세요! *Yoboseyo!* Hello!

My husband, Dennis, and I visited Seoul in early September. It was hot and humid, very similar to the weather Hawaii experienced this past summer.

Seoul is a shopper's paradise. We visited all the popular shopping spots in the city and my husband estimates we walked close to 10 miles on our second day there. Whew!

Department stores open around 10 am, and for the convenience of incurable shopaholics, insomniacs and indecisive purchasers, some stay open until 4 am.

At a night-shopping area we went to in Myeong-Dong there were thousands of people and you can't help but bump shoulders with passers-by, but no one seemed to mind. Depending on who was walking by at the time, sellers would hawk their goods in Korean, Chinese, Japanese or English.

Despite a common misconception that South Korean people aren't friendly, we found quite the opposite to be true. Even for a big city like Seoul, we thought the people to be very nice. At one of the underground malls we got into a conversation with amiable mother-and-daughter shop owners and chatted with them for quite awhile.



Locals as well as visitors swarm the Myeong-Dong area to shop.



Debra and Dennis place their lock among the thousands that adorn the fence surrounding the platform at N Seoul Tower.

It was easy getting around, walking or by subway. We felt very safe even at night and the city is kept very clean. We found the people to be very honest. While walking through an alley someone dropped some cash and a passerby tapped that person's shoulder to let him know. Many vendors merely cover their goods overnight with a plastic tarp.

We visited N Seoul Tower, and as any Korean drama fan can tell you, this is a place for couples. Bring your own lock or purchase one at the gift shop, write a message (something romantic) on the lock and place it on the fence surrounding the area. The "love locks" are several layers deep so we placed ours around the link of another lock.

Even if you prefer just sitting to penning romantic messages, the benches near the fence slant down toward the center so couples can't help but sit very close.

We enjoyed our trip and we'd like to return to South Korea someday to do more sightseeing, experience more of the countryside and meet more of its friendly people.

— Debra Saiki

Hedonism is the pursuit of pleasure and satisfying the needs of the body, this way giving value to life. Asceticism is the training and practicing of methods of physical control, thereby directing the mind to overcome the body, giving clarity to the surviving mind and giving value to life.

Everything we do falls under one of the two categories, or a blend of the two. But the problem is not the supremacy of the mind over body,

The Pursuit of Health: A Type of Illness?

jealousy, envy, deceit, dependency, egoism, competition and delusion.

Can you think of any others? Yes, you probably can.

Ignorance doesn't mean stupid. It means looking in the wrong place, ignoring the real target. Acute awareness of this target is called the Middle Way.

— Jonathan Tani

or body over mind.

It is Ignorance: expectation, greed, anger,

GO GREEN

To switch to an electronic version of our Wa newsletter, simply send an email, with subject line "Email Wa," including your name and address, to betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.

Then, starting next month, your Wa will arrive in your email inbox instead of being delivered to your mailbox by your mail carrier.

You'll be helping us save some paper and receive a bonus while at it. Your bonus? The emailed version of Wa comes in color!



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2013

11/3 Sun 10 am	Shotsuki memorial service & Sunday school
11/3 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
11/5 Tue 7 pm	Lecture series #1 - Dr. George Tanabe
11/7 Thu 7 pm	Lecture series #2 - Dr. George Tanabe
11/9 Sat 7 pm	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
11/10 Sun 10 am	Sunday service
11/12 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/12 Tue 7 pm	Lecture series #3 - Dr. George Tanabe
11/14 Thu 7 pm	Lecture series #4 - Dr. George Tanabe (no ABCs of Buddhism study class)
11/17 Sun 10 am	Sunday service & Sunday school
11/17 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
11/24 Sun 10 am	Palolo Hongwanji Ho-on-ko service (No service at Betsuin)
11/26 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/26 Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: Ikiru
11/30 Sat 1 pm	Recitation circle (moved from 11/28)

DECEMBER 2013

12/1 Sun 10 am	Shotsuki memorial service & Sunday school
12/1 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
12/8 Sun 10 am	HBC Bodhi Day service Jodo Mission of Hawaii
12/10 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
12/12 Thu 7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
12/14 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
12/15 Sun 10 am	Bodhi Day service & Sunday school
12/15 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
12/17 Tue 7 pm	O-ko: dharma discussion at Kaneohe
12/22 Sun 10 am	Sunday service
12/24 Tue	No ukulele class or movie night
12/28 Sat 10 am	Annual temple cleaning , followed by Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning
12/29 Sun	No Sunday service
12/31 Tue 5 pm	Year-end service (Joya-e)
1/1/14 Wed 10 am	New Year service (Shusho-e)

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