

# 和

‘WA’  
harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

7  
July 2014

### 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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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

## WHAT OBON MEANS TO ME

Faye Shigemura

**M**y grandparents and great-grandparents were active members of the temple, so my first obon season must have been from the age of four months. If I danced, it must have been to the hypnotizing beat of the drums, with a lot of squealing, kicking and arm flailing.

I must have been, umm... eight or nine years old when obon season really started to mean something to me. It meant getting to put on my yukata. It meant watching the cool high school kids dancing the beccho around the yagura. It meant shave ice with strawberry syrup, two BBQ sticks and saimin. And, I got to hold on to my own money, which I kept safely tucked in my kimono sleeve, squeezing my sleeve every ten minutes to make sure the money was still there. It made me feel grown up.

Fast forward 60 years to 2014. My, my, how things have changed. I've exchanged my yukata for an apron, and my feet are firmly repositioned from the dance floor to the kitchen floor. I was never a whiz in the kitchen, so it was a small miracle that people trusted me to take the role of the "new kitchen mama" a few years ago, when all the obaachans decided to retire and "leave it to the young folks." I must admit, though, that I enjoy the camaraderie with other temple members and volunteers. We have some *monku* outbursts, but it's usually low key, and laughable after a few years.

There's also a pensive or reflective side to the obon season for many of us. It's probably an age thing, but as I grew older, I would recall friends and relatives, deceased and living, who taught me to do this, or cautioned me not to do that, where previously, I would just go through the motions of doing it. Jean Tanaka taught me a fast way to cut lettuce for somen salad. My friend Haruko taught me what kind of knife to use for cutting different foods. Mom taught me how to pick the violets in our front yard and tie them up with string to bring to my first grade teacher, Mary Silva, who loved violets. Babasan taught me how to run around and chase the chicken for our dinner. I was never good at that since I wanted to help the chicken to escape.

(cont'd on p. 2)

### HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII DISTRICT BON DANCE SCHEDULE

#### Waimea Higashi Hongwanji

Waimea temple already held its bon dance on June 27 & June 28

#### Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji

Saturday, July 5 (service at 6 pm; bon dance starts 6:30 pm)

#### Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

Friday, July 26 (service at 6:30 pm; bon dance starts 7 pm)

Saturday, July 27 (service at 6:30 pm; bon dance starts 7 pm)

#### Palolo Hongwanji

Friday, August 2 (service at 7 pm; bon dance starts 7:30 pm )

Saturday, August 3 (service at 7 pm; bon dance starts 7:30 pm )

#### Hilo Higashi Hongwanji

Saturday, August 10 (service at 7 pm; bon dance starts 8 pm)

## What Obon Means to Me (cont'd)

In our busy lives, obon offers us a chance to remember those who have left their legacy with us. Of course I also remember when mom would chase me around the table with whatever was close, usually a wooden hanger to whoop my okole, but I guess that's a precious legacy, too. I also remember how sore that hanger was. Thanks, mom, nice swing. You would have made a good baseball player.

Speaking of obon activities, please bring your family and friends and come to the temple to enjoy our bon dance this July 25 and 26. As the years go by, we get better at organizing our booths at the bon dance, so this year will be better than last. We are starting to accept donations for our food booths, and sign-ups for our preparation days. I've listed some items that we will need, and will gladly accept any donation you can make.

### SOME OF THE ITEMS WE NEED THE MOST

veggies:	rice
carrots	sugar
onions	kamaboko
celery	cooking oil
potatoes	coffee
shiitake	soyu
takenoko	bottled water
Spam	can soda/juice
flour	cash \$\$\$

## VOLUNTEER CALENDAR - PREPARATION FOR BON DANCE

Please plan on coming to help with food booth preparation if you can spare some time.  
Call 531-9088 for more information.

Mon 7/21	Tue 7/22	Wed 7/23	Thu 7/24	Fri 7/25 BON DANCE	Sat 7/26 BON DANCE	Sun 7/27
<b>10 am</b> Shopping for food & other supplies	<b>6 pm</b> Bon dance practice	<b>10 am - 3 pm</b> Food prep String BBQ sticks	<b>10 am - 3 pm</b> Food prep Chop veggies Cook and bag florets	<b>10 am --&gt;</b> Final shopping Cook	<b>10 am --&gt;</b> Prep for eve Chop veggies Cook	<b>10 am</b> Clean up

## A Fabulous Feast for Famished Foodie Fathers

I believe it might have been the best Father's Day lunch this side of the Koolaus. On this fine June 15 Father's Day, our fathers were treated by the mothers to a fancy make-your-own *temaki sushi* lunch at the Betsuin's Father's Day refreshment hour.

After an educational Father's Day message by John Ishikawa during the Sunday service, our men marched over to Otani Center and were greeted by a wonderful potluck buffet with a fabulous sushi corner.

Kathleen Kiyuna started off the buffet offerings with her *mabodofu* dish, followed by Joyce Masaki's garlic *edamame* and *namasu*, plus *miso* soup using Rev. Honda's mother's home-made *aka miso*.

Kazue Uechi brought a fancy green salad with home-made dressing and fried chicken wings. Using a real

*tamagoyaki* pan, Jeanne Kawawata rolled her omelets perfectly, even though it was a first-time attempt. Folding the eggs is quite tricky.

Kumiko Saiki brought an interesting *sanzoku nabe*, which she described as soup sourced from the mountains, ocean and earth, so it had a multitude of ingredients, including yummy mushrooms. Kumiko just returned from Japan, so she also graced us with *senbei* from Kyushu.

Debra Saiki and Peggy Arita provided desserts of Ted's pies and red velvet cake. Jimmy Hirakawa brought the most delicious red cherries I've had this year.

The sushi bar gave everyone a multitude of choices of *temaki* to create. Some people put all the ingredients in one *temaki*, where others made five separate *temaki sushi* and ate all of them! Included in the spread were *maguro*, *hamachi*, shrimp, egg, *gobo*, *ume*, pink ginger, *takuwan*, *mozuku*, *kaiware*, and fresh cucumbers and green onions from

Rev. Bansaka's garden.

The women entertained the fathers with a short song to the tune of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." We made a valiant attempt to persuade the men to do the dishes, but again, we were ignored.

A good time was had by all, as the saying goes, and that was the best part. Roy Nakamoto claimed the prize for the most Father's Days celebrated. We helped him celebrate his 91st birthday last month.

— Faye Shigemura

### GREEN VERSION OF WA AVAILABLE BY EMAIL

Here's a reminder that the monthly Betsuin newsletter *Wa* is available by Earth-friendly email instead of on paper by regular mail.

To get on this list, simply send an email, subject line "Email *Wa*," with your name and address to [betsuin@hhbt-hi.org](mailto:betsuin@hhbt-hi.org).

# Big & Little Differences: Obon Season



## JAPAN

One of the big differences between obon celebrations in Hawaii and Japan is who actually sponsors the bon dance.

In Hawaii Buddhist temple sponsor the bon dances, with only a few put on by local community groups. Japan is completely the other way around. Most of the bon dances are held by the community rather than Buddhist temples.

Because of that, no service is held before the bon dance starts. Also, I suspect not many people really feel that a bon dance is related to Buddhist events.

Another big difference is that bon dances in Japan are getting smaller and smaller. Meanwhile in Hawaii, they're getting bigger and bigger.

There are many reasons they are becoming smaller in Japan. First, people's life styles have changed a lot within the last two or three decades. Lives were more community-based than individually-based. People had strong communities within the town or village. Since bon dances are sponsored by communities, a smaller community means smaller bon dances.

Also, not many people live with Grandma and Grandpa anymore, so carrying out old traditions has weakened. Maybe because of that, children do not dance anymore. They go there to watch elderly people dance, buy food, and play little games, but they do not dance.

Bon dances in Hawaii, however, are flourishing. I was wondering why. Maybe it's simply that people here like to dance!

"Dancing fool, watching fool: All fools, so let's all dance!"

— Rev. Makoto Honda



## LOS ANGELES

You know obon season is just around the corner when you receive your raffle tickets in May. West Covina Buddhist Temple obon is held for one day, the last Saturday in June, from noon to 9:00 pm.

Bon-odori practice starts in the beginning of June, twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays, to make sure everyone is familiar with each dance step.

The yagura is built in the parking lot one week prior to the actual event. On Friday, the gymnasium, booths, lanterns and lights are set up. Preparation for the food is done a couple of days in advance. Members

a Hawaiian-themed beer garden.

We have game booths for the children and a raffle every half-hour for bigger toys donated by the members.

In the gym we have exhibits from different organizations. On stage there are demonstrations by the martial arts groups, such as judo, karate, kendo and aikido. Japanese odori groups also perform, ending with the Kishin Taiko Group.

In the Social Hall, tables and chairs are set up to enjoy the delicious food and to play bingo, which is played throughout the day,



are asked to take home two dozen aburage and a recipe for inari sushi, to be prepared and brought in on Saturday morning. The Howakai lady members make rolls of makizushi, and plates of assorted sushi are assembled.

Food items that are sold at the bon dance include teriyaki chicken plate, sushi, somen, Okinawa dango, somen salad, tamale with chili, chow mein, okonomiyaki, home-made baked items and drinks. There is also

with a blackout game with a big jackpot to end the day.

The *Manto-e* service begins at 6:00 pm, for those who have lost someone during the past year since last obon, followed by bon dancing. At 8:30 the raffle drawing begins, ending with the grand prize of either a trip or cash.

Everything is dismantled the following morning, with no Sunday service being held.

— Jeanne Kawawata

## News on the Betsuin Wireless



Temple members cleaned the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park and enjoyed a picnic lunch at the ocean's edge.

### Betsuin members provide community service

An even dozen volunteers met at Kakaako Waterfront Park after the service on June 22 to help maintain the memorial to the nine who died in the accident between the Japanese fisheries school vessel Ehime Maru and a U.S. Navy submarine in 2001.

While the cleaning, wiping down and polishing under

the hot sun was all pau within a half hour, the volunteers gathered in the shade and cool ocean breeze at the shoreline pavilion and had a relaxing picnic lunch of a variety of *onigiri*, *okazu*, *tsukemono* and desserts brought by members. Best of all was the fellowship shared as we all got to know each other better and catch up on news around town, plus the latest on K-dramas, World Cup matches and planned summer trips off island.

After lunch we reconvened at the memorial, with Bishop Kawawata donning his robe for a short service at the site, chanting the *Tanbutsu-ge* sutra, followed by offering of incense by all.

The Ehime Maru Memorial, erected in 2002, is cleaned every weekend by local community groups, including temples, civic clubs, *kenjinkai* and school Japanese clubs. Our Betsuin is on the maintenance schedule twice a year.

### No Movie Night in July

Because of bon dance practice the same evening, we will not have a Movie Night this month on July 22. Lined up for August 26 showing is the 2003 film, "When the Last Sword Is Drawn," (*Mibu Kishi Den*), another Japan Academy Picture of the Year samurai classic.

## NEW BETSUIN ACTIVITIES

### Makoto's Computer Clinic

Monday, July 28, 1 pm, and every 28th day of the month  
Fukuhara Conference Room

Why doesn't my printer print after I upgraded to the latest operating system? How do I get started with email? How do I synch my calendar or contacts list to my smartphone?

Betsuin minister Rev. Makoto Honda is also our resident computer geek with a computer science degree, and may have the solutions to your lingering hardware or software-related problems.

Learn more about computers and soon you, too, will be like sensei and be able to do neat things like show movies on a wide-screen TV from a tablet!

### Jimmy's Auto Basics

Saturday, August 12, 12 noon, and every 2nd Sunday monthly  
Fukuhara Conference Room

Do I need to use premium gasoline in my car? What's proper air pressure in my tires, and how often should I rotate them? What's that funny noise that's coming from under my hood, and what should I expect to pay to fix it?

These and other questions about the care and feeding of your car will be fielded by Jimmy Hirakawa, 2nd generation proprietor of Palolo Auto Service.

Knowing about your car will make you more confident on the road and maybe become a better driver!

### Frank's Poetry in Motion

Sunday, August 19, 12 noon, and every 3rd Sunday monthly  
Nature setting

Always wanted to try your hand at poetry but didn't know where to start? It's mostly about observing the world around you and, like anything else, improves with practice. So let's try!

Rev. Frank Childs, an avid fan of haiku as well as other forms of poetry, will facilitate the sessions. Our first will be held at Moanalua Gardens. Gain inspiration from the natural setting and enjoy the fun of sharing your creations with others.

Let's learn together how to express our thoughts from within, poetically onto a piece of paper.

# A-bombs Exhibit for Peace: Face the Past to Heal the Present

**M**y name is Masago Asai, and I'm a member of Palolo Hongwanji. Today, I'd like to inform you of our upcoming event, "A-bombs Exhibit for Peace: Face the Past to Heal the Present" to be held October 18-26 at Palolo Hongwanji. Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is among the 31 co-sponsors and supporters of the exhibition.

The exhibit organizer is the Hawai'i Conference of Religions for Peace (HCRP), a Honolulu non-profit, interfaith dialogue to which I have belonged for the past nine years as a volunteer. Among HCRP's commitments is to hold annual "Peace Prayer" gatherings. Over the past 21 years, we've invited many religious representatives from 16 different faith traditions to provide opportunities to meet and offer prayers for peace.



Masago Asai

I was motivated to initiate this peace project under HCRP because I was born in Nagasaki and am a second-generation of A-bomb survivors. Our program is slightly different from other exhibits of this kind. We focus on education, especially for the younger generations, not only by bringing war-related materials but also by introducing practical approaches to inner peace creation and daily maintenance. The reason is because after a long search for the true meaning of peace, I've realized that if we don't have peace within, we will still be able to make and use any powerful weapons in the future. The human inner maturity, therefore, is a must for global peace, I believe.

Please attend this FREE educational event with your family and friends, and help spread the word among your associates also. The program is open to the public, and is totally educational and non-political. Schools and colleges excursions are welcome; reservation times are still open.

Thank you very much for your support for peace.

Warmest Aloha in gassho,

Masago Asai  
Secretary & Coordinator  
A-bombs Exhibit for Peace  
Hawai'i Conference of Religions for Peace

*You're Invited!*

## ***A-bombs Exhibit for Peace: Face the Past to Heal the Present***

**Saturday, October 18 – Sunday, October 26, 2014**  
**10 am to 4 pm (Mon - Sat)**  
**11 am to 4 pm (Sun)**

*Palolo Hongwanji – Inner Temple*  
*1641 Palolo Avenue, Honolulu*  
*Telephone: 732-1491*  
*Ample Parking*

🌀 **Opening Ceremony** 🌀  
*Saturday, October 18*  
*10 am*

*Palolo Hongwanji Social Hall (Downstairs)*

*Keynote Speech by Hiroshima A-bomb Survivor*

🌀 **Closing "Peace Prayer" Ceremony** 🌀  
*Sunday, October 26*  
*4 pm to 6 pm*

*Palolo Hongwanji Inner Temple*

*Refreshments follow in Social Hall*

For details, please visit our websites or Facebook, or email us.

Email: [hcrpinfo@gmail.com](mailto:hcrpinfo@gmail.com)  
HCRP URL: <http://www.hcrphawaii.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hawaiiconferenceofreligionsforpeace>  
A-bombs URL: <http://www.atomicbombexhibitionhawaii.org/>

## Family photos sought for centennial book

**M**ahalo to those who have already brought us family photos and albums for our planned anniversary book for our centennial celebration in 2016.

We're still looking for a lot more photos of temple member families for the book. Besides current pictures, we'd like to have more



photos from back in earlier days of the temple, such as this one of the Sasabuchi family back in the 1960s.

We'd prefer digital files that don't need to be returned, but we'll gratefully accept prints, too. When we return your photos, we'll include digital files of the photos we scanned.

Along with your photos, we'd like to include family histories and other interesting bits of information you may wish to share. Please help us with this important temple project.

# The Tradition of Manto-e Service

Long ago in India, wherever the Buddha delivered a sermon, the Sangha, those who came to listen, would each light a candle. The Sangha became so numerous that on these occasions, the lights came to be called Manto, ten thousand lights.

In Japan, about 1,200 years ago during the reign of Emperor Shomu, a ceremony centered around the Todaiji Temple in Nara was started in which once a year, Manto were lit in honor of the Buddha, thus beginning the tradition of Manto-e. Higashi Hongwanji of Mission of Hawaii follows in the tradition of the Manto-e during the Obon Dance. We will have our Manto-e Service on July 25 and 26, 2014 at 6:30pm before the dance. With your help, we would like to decorate the summer sky with "ten thousand lanterns."

Please fill in the application with your donation of \$20.00 for each lantern you wish to offer in memory of departed relatives and friends. Then names will be written on a small tablet, which will be hung from each lantern. These custom-made-in-Japan lanterns are yours to keep. You may come to pick up your lantern after the Obon Dance at the temple.

## 万灯会法要

黒暗に灯ありて、我等が方向定まる。もし灯なくば、出口なき不安よりいかでか出ずる事を得んや。灯なくて我等は迷い、灯ありて迷いより出ず。かく言う灯とは、あなたの師である仏の教えであり、善知識であり、亡き先祖の方々のことでもあります。灯に出合って我々が道定まる事、実に有難き事なり。

万灯会法要を来る7月25日-26日午後6時半より東本願寺ハワイ別院お盆踊り会場にてお勤めしますので一人でも沢山の方をお誘い下さって献灯お願い申し上げます。

申込 1灯(日本特製提灯) 20 弗を寄付して頂きピラに名前又は法名と寄付者名を記して献灯します。申込用紙に記入して送り下さい。

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### MANTO-E LANTERN APPLICATION FORM 万灯会提灯申込書

Please make check payable to: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii 東本願寺ハワイ別院宛  
1685 Alaneo Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ lanterns in memory of: 万灯会提灯 \_\_\_\_\_ 個分 \_\_\_\_\_ 弗同封

NAME(S) 名前 \_\_\_\_\_ Dharma Name (Buddhist Name) if known 法名 \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name 寄付者名 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address 住所 \_\_\_\_\_



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII  
1685 ALANEO STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### JULY 2014

7/6	Sun	10 am	<b>Shotsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
7/6	Sun	12 pm	<b>Family portrait sitting</b>
7/8	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
7/10	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English
7/12	Sat	10 am	<b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b> led by Rev. Frank Childs
7/13	Sun	10 am	<b>Obon/Hatsubon service</b>
7/13	Sun	12 pm	<b>Basic Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
7/15	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-ko:</b> Dharma discussion at Betsuin
7/20	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
7/20	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting/Yagura setup</b>
7/22	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
7/22	Tue	6 pm	<b>Bon dance practice</b> at Otani Center
7/25	Fri	7 pm	<b>Bon dance (Manto-e service</b> at 6:30 pm)
7/26	Sat	7 pm	<b>Bon dance (Manto-e service</b> at 6:30 pm)
7/27	Sun	10 am	<b>Bon dance cleanup</b> (No Sunday service)
7/28	Mon	10 am	<b>Shinran Shonin memorial service</b>
7/28	Mon	11 am	<b>Recitation circle</b>
7/28	Mon	1 pm	<b>Makoto's Computer Clinic</b>

### AUGUST 2014

8/3	Sun	10 am	<b>Shotsuki memorial service &amp; Sunday school</b>
8/3	Sun	12 pm	<b>Jimmy's Auto Basics</b>
8/9	Sat	10 am	<b>What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu?</b> led by Rev. Frank Childs
8/10	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>
8/10	Sun	12 pm	<b>Basic Buddhism study class</b> (Japanese) <b>Poetry in Motion outing</b> (English) Moanalua Gardens
8/12	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
8/14	Thu	7 pm	<b>ABCs of Buddhism study class</b> led by Rinban Kawawata in English
8/17	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service &amp; Sunday school</b>
8/17	Sun	12 pm	<b>Betsuin board meeting</b>
8/19	Tue	7 pm	<b>O-ko:</b> Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
8/24	Sun	9 am	<b>Chicken/sushi sale</b> (No Sunday service)
8/26	Tue	3 pm	<b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>
8/26	Tue	6:30 pm	<b>Movie night:</b> When the Last Sword Is Drawn
8/28	Thu	10 am	<b>Shinran Shonin memorial service</b>
8/28	Thu	11 am	<b>Recitation circle</b>
8/28	Thu	1 pm	<b>Makoto's Computer Clinic</b>
8/31	Sun	10 am	<b>Sunday service</b>

*Everyone is welcome to join in on our sutra chanting at 7 am daily (except Sundays & 28th day of the month) in the Betsuin Main Hall.*