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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

11
November 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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Editor: Ken Saiki

ON BONBU-NESS

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

This month, we will observe Ho-on-ko. As you know, Ho-on-ko is when Jodo Shinshu followers hold memorial services for Shinran Shonin, our denomination's founder, who died in Kyoto, Japan, on November 28, 1262.

Ho-on-ko is the occasion when we express our gratitude to Nembutsu teachings which give us light for our lives and to Shinran Shonin, as well as other teachers who brought Nembutsu teachings to us. Ho-on-ko is the time we re-examine our entrusting minds through Shinran's teachings.

I'd like to share a story by Ryotaro Shiba (1923-1996), a noted Japanese author of historical novels, several of which were made into year-long NHK Taiga dramas or other television series.

Shiba's story goes like this:

One day, a teacher asked his students, "What does *bonbu* mean?"

One of the students answered, "*Bonbu* are ordinary, foolish and useless people."

The teacher said, "That's right! So then, who can you think of that's a *bonbu*?"

The students tried to figure out who might be a *bonbu* and started looking around the room to see if any of their classmates might be one.

"Hmmm, I wonder if he's a *bonbu* because his grades are so poor..."

"Maybe he's a *bonbu* because he always goes to town to play and has no morals..."

No one, though, could name a single person.

The teacher asked once more, "Who's a *bonbu*?"

Still no one answered.

Finally he said, "We are all *bonbu*!"

Surprised by the teacher's frank statement, one of the students immediately asked, "Then does that mean that you are a *bonbu*, too, Sensei?"

The teacher answered, "Yes, I am a *bonbu*."

The students were naturally shocked that their own teacher would admit, in front of all of them, that he was a foolish and useless person...a dummy!

Then Sensei asked them to name whom they thought might be the greatest person in this world.

Some thought surely it must be the Emperor of Japan. Others thought it might be the President of the United States, or perhaps the prime minister of some other powerful country.

(cont'd on p. 2)



Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

HO-ON-KO WEEKEND AT THE BETSUIN

Hawaii District Ho-on-ko Gathering (Otani Center)
Saturday, Nov. 15, 1 - 5 pm

Hawaii District and Betsuin Ho-on-ko Service (Main Hall)
Sunday, Nov. 16, 10 am

Hawaii District Kikyoshiki Confirmation Ceremony (Main Hall)
Sunday, Nov. 16, 11:30 am

ON BONBU-NESS (cont'd from p. 1)

But Sensei said, "No, the greatest person in the world is one who discovers his or her own *bonbu*-ness.

Then Sensei asked the class whether they knew who was the first person to realize or discover this *bonbu*-ness.

Sensei went on, "That person was Shinran's teacher, Honen Shonin. But don't worry, since you're still students, it's all right if you don't understand this realization of 'foolishness' right now."

"However," he cautioned them, "when you become an adult, please recall this question. If you do not understand this matter of *bonbu*-ness, you are an unhappy person in this world."

From this story, we can see that a person who discovers his or her own foolishness is indeed a great person in this world.

Shinran Shonin made this greatest discovery through his teacher, Honen Shonin. Shinran said in his essay, "Notes on Once-Calling and Many-Calling," that we are full of ignorance and blind passion, *bonbu*.

"Our desires are countless, and anger, wrath, jealousy and envy are overwhelming, arising without pause; to the very last moment of life they do not cease, or disappear, or exhaust."

Shinran pointed out the essence of a foolish being, which is ignorance and blind passion. This is human nature. This awareness of self causes us to be humble, leading us to have a creative and dynamic life, just as Shinran Shonin's life was.

I wish I will see all of you at our Ho-on-ko weekend at the Betsuin on November 15 & 16.

Thank you in gassho.

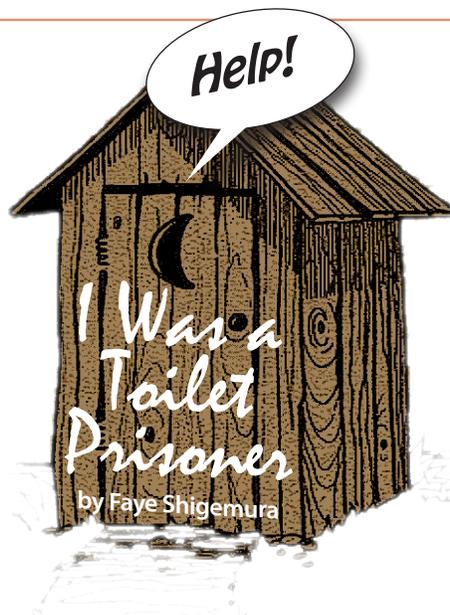
TTrue story. I was held captive at a man's home. The man in question lived alone while his wife was away on a trip. Held against my will, I pounded on the door, shouted and called out for help, but none came. What was I to do in my distress? What would anyone have done in the same situation?

More about the perp. His name: Rev. Noriaki Fujimori, middle-aged 5'5" Japanese male, no prior arrests. Be careful of this man.

It all started when after having a beer too many at a thank you party at his residence, I needed to go to relieve myself, so I asked for directions to the bathroom. Without skipping a beat, Mr. Arai stood up and without a word, simply pointed to the yard outside. Hmph.

After my business was done, I tried to open the bathroom door, but it wouldn't budge. After pulling and pulling, I realized it wasn't about to open for me without a fight. After about five minutes of "OK, let's try this once more," I came to the conclusion it was time to start asking for help. I called from the window on the side of the building, but all it did was wake up the neighbor's dog, which, after a while, went back to sleep.

"Makoto," I called. "Makoto!" I



started to yell. I could hear him talking along with the others, whose laughter volume started to escalate, causing Makoto to talk more loudly, drowning out my futile calls for help even more.

Mild panic started to settle in. But then I remembered that Makoto was sitting on the far end of the table, so I should call the person on the table nearest to the bathroom. "Frank," I called. "Frank!" I shouted, "Frank!!" I thought of screaming, but all that would've done was to wake up the dog again. I could have prayed for help, but we Buddhists don't do that.

"Makoto!!" Just then I heard someone say, "I hear something, like someone calling for Makoto."

"Yes, yessss, Makotooo!!!" He finally came to the rescue. Freedom! Saved at last!!

Back at the table, everyone wanted to know what had happened. After I told my story, one by one, other adventures centered around this mischievous door began unfolding.

Irene said the same thing happened to her once, but somehow, she shoved on the door just right and managed to get it open.

Rev. Fujimori admitted it had happened to him before, too, and gave the technical physics analysis about wood expanding when the air is damp. He also mentioned he had thought I was taking too long, and had asked Yoko to check on me. But Yoko just smiled. She probably understood womanly needs, and thought, you know, what could go wrong in a reverend's bathroom?

Tony graciously offered to shave the door the next day to prevent recurrence of this uncomfortable situation. Thanks, Tony. Hopefully, no one else will need to be rescued from the fearsome hold of that ominous bathroom door.

I guess Mr. Arai was right after all. The best "bathroom" was right out there in the yard.

I just know it. This incident will surely show up in the Wa.

A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED BAZAAR & RUMMAGE SALE

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St. (corner N. Kuakini St.) across from Lanakila Elem. School
Sunday, November 23 * 9 am - 2 pm

Partial list of great deals you'll find on sale, and all for a worthy cause!

- Aloha shirts
 - Baskets
 - Beach items
 - Bedding & sheets
 - Books
 - Caps
 - CDs/DVDs
 - Clocks
 - Craft items
 - Designer goods
 - Dishes & tableware
 - Dolls
 - Dresses
 - Electronics
 - Games
 - Gift items
 - Handbags
 - Household goods
 - Japanese collectibles
 - Jewelry
 - Kids' clothing
 - Kitchen utensils
 - Knick-knacks
 - Ladies' apparel
 - Men's wear
 - Movies (DVD/tapes)
 - Pots & pans
 - Shirts/tops/blouses
 - Shoes & slippers
 - Small appliances
 - Sporting goods
 - Stationery/office supplies
 - Stuffed animals
 - Suits, jackets & pants
 - T-shirts
 - Tools
 - Toys
 - Wallets
 - Women's accessories
 - 3-ring binders
- and much, much more!*
- Plus, stuff to eat!**
- Spam musubi
 - Cookies

Still accepting donations of clean and usable items. Please do not bring items that are damaged or missing parts or need to be cleaned or repaired. Mahalo!

News on the Betsuin Wireless

Harmony of Japan workshop conducted at Otani Center

At the *Harmony of Japan* workshop held at the Betsuin after our Oct. 5 ohigan service, musicians associated with the Takamasa Fujima Dance Institute in Japan not only performed but also provided interesting source information about their instruments.

The *biwa*, for example, with its tell-tale crescent moon markings, was said to have originated in the Middle East, while the ancient double-reeded *ohichiriki*, after introduction into Europe, eventually evolved into the modern-day oboe. The Okinawan *sanshin*, invented in Egypt some 3,000 years ago, made its way via the Middle East to China and then Okinawa.

Musicians and dancers from the institute also performed at the UH-Manoa Orvis Auditorium Oct. 8 with Rev. Masatoshi Shamoto's *gagaku* group, of which Bishop Kawawata is a member, at a concert sponsored by The Japan Foundation.

Mahalo to temple member Kei Tsuji, who was instrumental in getting the workshop booked at the Betsuin and also at Palolo Hongwanji Oct. 6. Tsuji-san is a longtime friend of the Fujima family.

Rev. Patti Nakai featured speaker at Ho-on-ko events this month

All members and friends are invited to attend Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District Ho-on-ko activities scheduled this month in conjunction with Shinran Shonin's memorial services held in November.

First is our **Ho-on-ko Gathering 2014**, entitled "Transcending Gender: Shinran Shonin's Dream of Kannon," by popular lecturer Rev. Patti Nakai of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago. She will be discussing how a dream Shinran had influenced the way he treated women as his equals.

The gathering is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15, from 1 to 5 pm and includes a light dinner. There is a nominal \$10 fee. For more information, please call 531-9088.

Rev. Nakai will also be presenting the dharma message at our **Ho-on-ko service** on Sunday, Nov. 16.

Immediately following the Ho-on-ko Sunday service, we will be holding a **Kikyoshiki, or confirmation ceremony**, when interested members will receive their *homyo*, or dharma name. Overseas District Abbot will officiate at the Ho-on-ko service and confirmation ceremony.

Shinshu Center of America public lecture at Betsuin

Taking advantage of her presence in Honolulu, the Shinshu Center of America is presenting a free public lecture by Rev. Patti Nakai on Friday, Nov. 14, in the Betsuin Main Hall. "People Are Persons: Buddhism, LGBTQ and You" is the title of her lecture, which delves into why Buddhists as a whole don't have a problem with sexual orientation and gender identity.

The lecture is scheduled to run from 7 to 8:30 pm. Call 531-9088 for more information.

Holiday activities schedule

Our usual ukulele practice and movie night for the 4th Tuesday next month will not be held because of the holidays.

We'll still have our hands full with things to do at year-end, such as our top-to-bottom end-of-year *oosouji*, or temple cleaning, and our twice-a-year Ehime Maru Memorial community service cleaning at Kakaako Waterfront Park on Dec. 27.

We're also planning a mochi-pounding get-together after our Dec. 28 Sunday service. Let us know if you and your family are interested in joining us so we can have enough supplies on hand. We'd like to make sure everyone can enjoy this popular New Year *mochi-tsuki* tradition and perpetuate it for future generations.

And let's not forget the "year-passing" *toshikoshi soba* and other *osechi* dishes after bell-ringing at our *Joya-e* year-end service on Dec. 31, New Year's Eve. Then on Jan. 1 join us for slurping tummy-warming *ozoni* (mochi soup) right after our *Shuso-e* New Year's Day service.

Be sure to check December's Wa for full details of our year-end calendar of events.



Dancers and sanshin players were part of a *Harmony of Japan* workshop at the Betsuin.



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2014

11/1 Sat 10 am	Omigaki
11/2 Sun 10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school
11/2 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
11/8 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
11/9 Sun 10 am	Palolo Hō-on-kō (no service at Betsuin)
11/9 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
11/11 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/13 Thu 7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
11/15 Sat 1 pm	District Hō-on-kō gathering
11/16 Sun 10 am	Betsuin Hō-on-kō service
11/18 Tue 7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
11/23 Sun 9 am	Bazaar at Otani Center (no Sunday service)
11/25 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
11/25 Tue 6:30 pm	Movie night: Ichi
11/28 Fri 10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
11/28 Fri 11 am	Recitation circle
11/28 Fri 1 pm	Mako's Computer Clinic
11/30 Sun 10 am	Sunday service

DECEMBER 2014

12/6 Sat 1 pm	Gagaku/Indian dance - Otani Center
12/7 Sun 10 am	HBC Bodhi Day service - Tendai Mission (no service at Betsuin)
12/9 Tue 3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
12/11 Thu 7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
12/13 Sat 10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
12/14 Sun 10 am	Betsuin Bodhi Day service
12/14 Sun 12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
12/16 Tue 7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
12/21 Sun 10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school
12/21 Sun 12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
12/23 Tue	No ukulele class or movie night
12/27 Sat 9 am	Annual temple cleaning (大掃除) Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning Lunch at Kakaako Waterfront Park
12/28 Sun 10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
12/31 Wed 5 pm	Year-end service (Joya-e)
1/1 Thu 10 am	New Year service (Shuso-e)

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.