

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

6
June 2015

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

TRUE RELATIONSHIPS

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

In our society we have many kinds of relationships with others. There are relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children, boyfriends and girlfriends, teachers and students, and so forth.

I'm often concerned about these kinds of relationships, because they are easily destroyed, even if you love others or you have a good friendship. Of course, love and friendship are among the most important feelings for us. Without love, we couldn't raise children, and children could grow up to reject their parents.

There is a story about Christen, a healthy baby born in Sweden, but with one thing different from other babies. She refused breast-feeding from her mother. Every time the nurse took her to her mother's room for feeding, she would cry and cry, and only wanted bottled milk.

Looking carefully at the nurse's report, the doctor wondered why the infant would refuse her mother even when she was hungry.

A thorough exam didn't come up with any symptoms of sickness. He tried breast-feeding from another mother, and was surprised to see Christen drink the milk and go contentedly to sleep.

The doctor then realized that the problem was not Christen, but her mother. He asked her, "Did you have problems during your pregnancy?" She said no.

After a few more questions, he finally asked, "Did you really want the baby? Did you even want to get pregnant?"

The mother admitted she didn't, but merely went along with her husband.

The doctor realized that Christen must not have felt any love when she was a fetus and therefore refused her mother after she was born.

Love is important for raising children and for having healthy relationships with others. We feel comfort in receiving love from others and loving others.

But sometimes love somehow ends up messing up relationships, especially between parents and their children, between brothers and sisters and between friends. This is especially true between lovers. This is because our love has limitations. We cannot embrace others with our own human love.

The tragedy at the castle of Rajagriha in the Meditation Sutra is one of the model examples of the limitation of human love. King Vinvahsra and Queen Vaidehi wanted a successor to keep their power over the country. They asked a fortuneteller, "When will be able to have a baby?" He told them that after an old hermit living in the deep mountain died, he would be reborn as their child.

The king and the queen were overjoyed with the prediction and asked when the hermit was expected to die.

"In three years," was the reply. But they wanted a baby as soon as possible because they were getting old. The king then ordered the hermit to die but he refused, saying he wanted to live his life completely.

Enraged, the king sent his soldiers to kill him. Before dying, the hermit warned that whoever was born as his next life would retain his grudge and kill his parents.

As predicted, after the hermit died, the queen became pregnant. However, when the king and queen heard what the hermit had said just before he was killed, they became afraid of their future and their baby. She let the newborn Devadatta fall from a high tower. But the baby survived, with just an injured little finger.

They raised the prince as their successor, but when he heard the secret of his birth, he imprisoned both parents, killed his father, but spared his mother.

Through the teaching of the Buddha, Devadatta and his mother restored their relationship. They came to realize that human love and thought have



Rinban Ken Kawawata

(cont'd on p. 2)

TRUE RELATIONSHIPS (cont'd)

limitations. Forced to ask themselves why this tragedy occurred and craving peace in their lives, they had to find the solution for themselves.

Buddha did not teach directly how to restore their love or their relationship. By just pointing out the Pure Land (Jodo), which means peace of mind, he taught the queen how she could find true ease (anshin). Queen Vaidehi found out how to depend on herself to regain human nature and human relationships.

The lesson is that for true human relationships, we cannot depend on limited human love and compassion. We have to overcome our own limited love and find real wisdom and compassion that we can really depend on. It

is only then that we're able to have real relationships, real friendships with others. I think the teaching of Nembutsu always points us in the direction to real ease and harmony in human relations.

We are self-centered and everything is me, me, me. "I" always has the first priority, so when those egos bump into each other, we end up broken. We need a cushion for having true relationships with others, even with our own spouse.

The dharma, Buddha's teaching, is our cushion to help prevent breaking our relationships. We are like the fragile glass cups needing bubble wrap packaging. That's another reason to go back to the dharma in our daily lives, to help us find true relationships with others.

Thank you. Namu Amida Butsu.



In Hawaii, the month when you're *least* likely to see rain is—you guessed it—June!

This year, however, we're under the influence of El Niño and may end up with more storms than usual, but on average, Honolulu sees less than a half-inch of rain during a typical June.

On the other hand, June is usually the *wettest* month of the year in Japan. Tokyo averages nearly 7½ inches, while Okinawa gets more than a foot.

Meteorologically speaking, Japan's rainy season occurs when the warm and moist air from the South Pacific meets and pushes up against the cold northerly continental air masses. The back-and-forth shoving match goes on for several weeks, resulting in a stationary weather front which brings precipitation to the whole Japanese island chain for most of June and part of July.

Many folks avoid visiting Japan in June because of the rain. Actually, traveling when it's raining isn't so bad. For one thing, visitor attractions aren't as jam-packed. Having a raincoat or an umbrella handy is a must, of course, but



The natural beauty of Koyasan in Wakayama is enhanced by rain.

much more important is the proper frame of mind. You must appreciate rain for what it is and what it brings to us.

What's more, you'll find scenes such as mountains, temples and bamboo forests even more attractive in the rain. And let's not forget the ultimate rainy-day luxury: soaking in a steaming outdoor *onsen* while gazing at the misty landscape stretched before you and listening to the sounds of falling raindrops. Get me on a plane now!

The Japanese call this rainy season *tsuyu* (梅雨), made up of the kanji for "plum" and "rain." As you might guess, this is the season when plums ripen.

Ame (雨), or "rain," is among the first 80 kanji learned by first-year elementary students in Japan. While attending Tachikawa Japanese Language School as a youngster, I found the character easy to remember and almost amusing because it actually looked like rain.

Perhaps because living in harmony with nature is part of Japanese culture, or maybe because it rains so much, the Japanese language has more than 50 nouns for rain, depending on how hard it's coming down, when it occurs, how long it lasts, etc. Here are just a few, some ancient and very poetic, and some just invented in the last couple of years:

Kosame (小雨), light rain

Hareichijikosame (晴れ一時小雨), brief light rain

En'u (燕雲), misty rain

Saiu (細雨) or *kirisame* (霧雨), drizzle

Ooame (大雨) or *tau* (多雨), heavy rain

Kyouu (強雨), severe rain

Shinotsukuame (篠突く雨), intense rain

Gouu (豪雨), torrential rain

Geriragouu (ゲリラ豪雨), torrential rain that hits suddenly, like a guerilla attack.

Ryouu (涼雨), cool rain

Yau (夜雨), night rain

Harusame or *shun'u* (春雨), spring rain

Samidare (五月雨), early summer rain

Akisame (秋雨), autumn rain

Touu (等雨), winter rain

Rin'u (霖雨), or *nagame* (長雨 or 霖), long rain

Kiu (喜雨), rain after a drought

Houshanouu (放射能雨), radioactive rain

Kitsuneame (狐雨), sun shower, or "liquid sunshine"

— Ken Saiki

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII DISTRICT RETREAT PROGRAM

Local Dharma Gathering

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (Betsuin)

“Awakening to Your Deepest Wish”

Sunday, June 14, 2015

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

(includes lunch)

Please join us!



Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo Street • Honolulu, HI 96817
Telephone: 531-9088

Guest Lecturer
Rev. Noriaki Fujimori
Resident Minister, Palolo Hongwanji

ABOUT REV. NORIAKI FUJIMORI

Rev. Fujimori was born 1958 in Hokkaido, Japan. He studied Higashi Hongwanji missionary work in North and South America in 1988 and became a member of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists in 1989, visiting many Southeast Asian countries to attend meetings and learn Buddhism practice.

In 1992, he was assigned as resident minister at Waimea Higashi Hongwanji, which had been totally destroyed by a hurricane three months earlier. Through the experience, he began focusing on living in an environmental friendly society. One of his goals was to install a natural energy system at the temple, and through the support of Dharma friends, it is now equipped with a photovoltaic system.

With the help of a temple friend from his native Hokkaido, he started an exchange program with Ainu people from Hokkaido along with members of the temple, Native Hawaiians and others from the local community.

In 2013, Rev. Fujimori was assigned to his current position as resident minister of Palolo Hongwanji, where he has initiated cleaning, gardening, art and other programs with members of the temple and the surrounding community.

*If you'd like to participate, simply call us at 531-9088
or email us at betsuin@hhbt-hi.org.*

Father's Day Family Service

Sunday, June 21, 10:00 am

Lay speaker: Jimmy Hirakawa

News on the Betsuin Wireless

Art of Paper Crafting classes

Tsuru? Done. Kusudama ball? Done. There are many more different modular origami that are begging to be made, with your learned skill and patient help.



Interested in joining in? Please call 531-9088 to register for the next session on Sunday, June 28 at 12 noon. There is a \$4 fee for each set.

June movie feature: *Yojimbo*

Toshiro Mifune returns in *Yojimbo*, a story of a ronin who arrives in a small town where competing crime lords vie for supremacy and try to hire the newcomer as a bodyguard. When asked, he introduces himself, "My name is Kuwabata Sanjuro, soon to be Yonjuro."

The film won Mifune a Best Actor award at the Venice International Film Festival in 1961.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., June 23, 110 min. monochrome, Japanese audio with English subtitles. Free admission.

用心棒 (ようじんぼう)

やくざの二大勢力が長い対立を続け、荒廃しきったとある宿場町。そこに現れた一人の素浪人。男は両方の親分に自分を用心棒として雇わないかと持ちかける「ところで、先生のお名前は?」「俺か・・・、俺の名前は、桑畑三十郎。もうそろそろ四十郎だがな」

ヴェネツィア国際映画祭 (1961年) 男優賞 三船敏郎

監督: 黒澤明、出演者: 三船敏郎、仲代達矢、公開: 1961、言語: 日本語、字幕: 英語、映時間: 110分 (モノクロ、6月23日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

**HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
DHARMA STUDY CENTER**

presents a lecture

**Voices of Buddhist Women in Modern Japan:
A Representation of Female Spirituality in the Seishinkai**

Despite abundant scholarship on Buddhism and how it is being adapted to our modern society, the position of Japanese Buddhist women during the early 20th century is relatively unstudied. This study, while focusing on the journal *Seishinkai*, sheds light on the spirituality of modern Shin Buddhist women. While female followers accepted the religious ideas developed by male clergy, they were extremely diverse and dynamic in their spiritual expressions.

Date: **Wednesday, June 17, 2015**

Time: **7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

Place: **Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo Street (N. Kuakini St. corner)
Honolulu, HI 96817**

Fee: **\$9.00**



Dr. Michihiro Ama

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Michihiro Ama

Assistant Professor, University of Alaska

Michihiro Ama is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He is the author of *Immigrants to the Pure Land: The Modernization, Acculturation, and Globalization of Shin Buddhism, 1898-1941* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2011).

TO REGISTER, clip here and return this registration form, or call 531-9088.

- Yes, I plan to attend Dr. Ama's June 17 lecture.
 Please let me know about future Dharma Study Center lectures by mail email.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

JUNE 2015

6/7	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service (Rinban Kawawata) & Sunday school
6/7	Sun	12 pm	Jimmy's Auto Basics led by Jimmy Hirakawa Fukuhara Conference Room
6/9	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/11	Thu	7 pm	ABCs of Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara Conference Room
6/13	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
6/14	Sun	10 am	Betsuin retreat
6/16	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
6/17	Wed	7 pm	Dharma Study Center lecture Dr. Michihiro Ama Betsuin main hall
6/21	Sun	10 am	Father's Day family service Lay speaker: Jimmy Hirakawa
6/21	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
6/23	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
6/23	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: Yojimbo
6/28	Sun	10 am	Onicchu and Sunday service
6/28	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Crafting class

JULY 2015

7/5	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service (Rinban Kawawata) & Sunday school
7/5	Sun	12 pm	Jimmy's Auto Basics
7/11	Sat	10 am	What on Earth Is Namuamidabutsu? led by Rev. Frank Childs
7/12	Sun	10 am	Obon/Hatsubon service
7/12	Sun	12 pm	Basic Buddhism study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
7/14	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/19	Sun	10 am	Sunday service
7/19	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
7/21	Tue	6 pm	Bon dance practice 6 pm: Ryukyu, 7 pm: Fukushima
7/21	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
7/24	Fri	6:30 pm	Manto-e service
7/24	Fri	7 pm	Bon dance
7/25	Sat	6:30 pm	Manto-e service
7/25	Sat	7 pm	Bon dance
7/26	Sun	9 am	Obon cleanup (No Sunday service)
7/28	Tue	10 am	Shinran Shonin memorial service
7/28	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
7/28	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: TBA

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.