

和

‘WA’
harmony

HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

4
April 2016

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

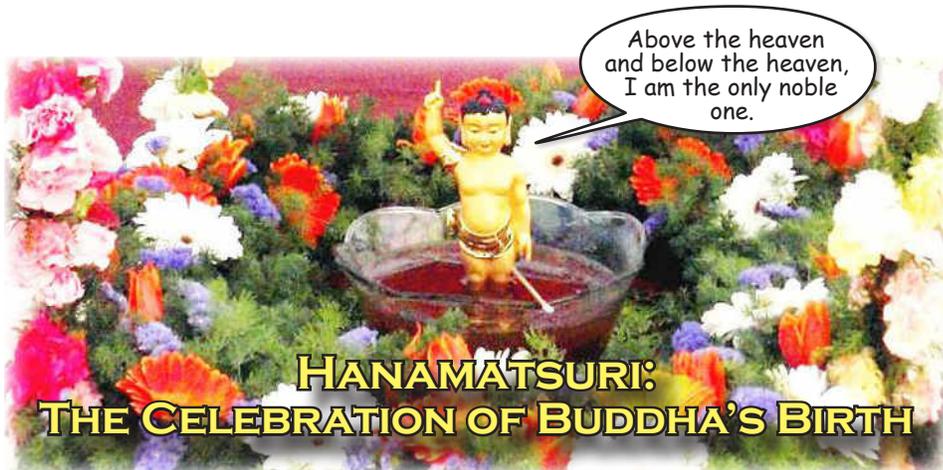
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Wa is published monthly by Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for its members and friends. Comments, articles and other items for publication consideration are welcomed.

Editor: Ken Saiki



It's already April. My, how time flies! We're done with attending all the New Year *shinnenkai* banquets and finally have gotten used to writing "2016" on our checks, and now we're already into the 2nd quarter of the new year!

This month we observe Hanamatsuri and celebrate Buddha's birth by decorating a Hanamido altar with flowers and pouring sweet tea over his statue. This is one sign that spring has come. This is also 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."

You may be thinking, "Hmm, usually babies don't walk and talk when they are born." Well, I really don't think that Buddha walked and talked at birth either, but since Buddha was a great teacher for everyone, people who listened and followed his teaching probably enhanced the extent of his achievement.

Walking seven steps means to achieve the purpose of life. And saying, "Above the heaven, below the heaven, I am the only noble one" means, "I received precious life." It is very hard to receive the human life. In the Three Treasures, the universal time-honored way we affirm our commitment to the Buddhist life, we recite, "Difficult is it to receive life in human form." Representing all human beings and all life, Buddha said, "Above the heaven, below the heaven, I am the only noble one." So each one of the lives has a same quality as Buddha's life and each one of our lives is precious and important.

Our life is precious because we get only one chance to live life right now. There are no other chances. What's more, no one else can have your life. You cannot exchange your life for another. 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's why your life is precious

(cont'd on p.2)



Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day and Betsuin Hanamatsuri Joint Service

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo Street (corner N. Kuakini St.)

Refreshments at Otani Center immediately following the service.
Food collection to assist homeless/houseless.

HANAMATSURI (cont'd from p.1)



and important. Just as important, we must realize that other lives are precious and important, too. We have to respect each other.

In the Larger Sutra, Buddha said that "Immersed in lust and craving, human beings in this world are born alone and die alone. Depart alone and arrive alone. From here, their actions lead towards a destination that is a place of neither pain or pleasure---each individual must experience this by himself, no one else can take his place."

Buddha said that we are born alone and die alone, and your karma leads your life, pain or pleasure. Nobody else takes your place. No one else can have your life. You cannot exchange your life for another. Each individual life is unique. You are the only one who can live your life.

You might think that you have family and friends, so you are not living alone. But each individual has to experience his own life. Even though we live together, we have different experiences and feelings in our daily lives. So our individual lives are different, unique and precious. We are responsible for our own lives. No one can take responsibility for

your life. You cannot depend on anyone or anything.

We received a precious life and we will die sometime in the future. Then what is the meaning of birth and life?

The celebration of birth is not only the celebration of the birth of one person who lived in history. The celebration of birth is a time to think about the meaning of birth and life.

The celebration of Buddha's birth 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.

In Gassho,
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

Hawaii Buddhist Council

2016 BUDDHA DAY

PHOTO CONTEST

Theme: "Friends"

Photo should capture Buddhist messages such as non-violence, harmony, mutual respect, and interdependence.

To Enter

Step 1

Take a photo.

Step 2

Please use your name in the photo's file name that you will attach and send.

Step 3

Then, please email your photo to aloha.hbc@gmail.com with your name, age, telephone number, and temple name. (Children under the age of 10 must have parental approval to participate.)

- Only one entry per person will be considered.
- All entries will be displayed at Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin April 10-17, 2016.
- The photo must be taken by the submitter.
- Hawaii Buddhist Council reserves all rights to the photos submitted.



Friends Photo Awards:

President's Award
Gold Award
Silver Award
Bronze Award

Deadline: April 1, 2016

Hawaii Buddhist Council

Buddha Day Service

in commemoration of the Buddha's Birth

Date: Sunday, April 10, 2016

Time: 9:00 am

**Place: Higashi Hongwanji
Mission of Hawaii**

1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817

Speaker: Mrs. Chizuko Endo

Co-Founder of Taiko Center of the Pacific

Entertainment:

Japanese court music and dance
(Hawaii Gagaku Society)

Children's songs and performances

HBC Buddha Day Food Drive 2016

Let's help the Homeless/Houseless to be able to say,
"Itadakimasu" and "Gochisosama deshita."

Please bring your donation to the Buddha Day Service. Recommended are non-perishable food items like canned goods, rice, spaghetti ingredients, pasta, corn-starch, cooking ingredient and so forth. Thank you for your Dana.

Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Please call 522-9200 or 531-9088
for more information.

Hawaii Buddhist Council

1727 Pali Hwy., Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200



Rev. Thomas Okano makes a point at the Spring Ohigan service held March 20.

Former Honpa bishop speaks at Betsuin Spring Ohigan service

Rev. Thomas Okano addressed members and visitors attending the Spring Ohigan service March 20. Rev. Okano is a former bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and a past director of the Buddhist Study Center at the University of Hawaii.

Following the service, he joined attendees at the Otani Center for lunch and fellowship and enjoyed our traditional annual *botamochi* Spring Ohigan treat.

Everything you always wanted to know about Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Christian beliefs* (*but were afraid to ask)

Why do many Christians and others feel that terrorism is part of the Muslim culture and rooted in the Koran?

What is it about the Hebrew religion that has resulted in Jews being persecuted through the centuries?

With Hinduism and Buddhism sharing common origins in northern India, what makes them so different?

Coming up in June is a series of Dharma Study Center lectures to help give us a better understanding of the world's major religions.

Dr. George Tanabe, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, University of Hawaii-Manoa, will

share his knowledge gained from teaching religion and Buddhist philosophy over 28 years. The lectures are designed to help you understand the different belief systems by focusing on the holy scriptures of each religion.

Here are the dates so that you can mark your calendars now!

Tues., June 14:

Hindu Scriptures: *the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita*

Wed., June 15:

Jewish Scripture: *The Hebrew Bible*

Thu., June 16:

Christian Scripture: *The New Testament*

Fri., June 17:

Islamic Scripture: *The Koran*

The lectures are tentatively scheduled for 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin main hall. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the Q&A period. Additional details are forthcoming.

April's movie is "awe-inspiring and enthralling" Tokyo Sonata

In the Sasaki home, Ryuhei Sasaki (Teruyuki Kagawa) goes to work as a typical salaryman. The mother, Megumi (Kyoko Koizumi), is your typical housewife. Youngest son Kenji (Kai Inowaki) goes to school and takes karate lessons. Meanwhile, older son Taka Sasaki (Yu Koyanagi) is still looking for his place in life. Within this average Tokyo area family, dark lies and unhappiness fester in the fringes.

Ryuhei loses his job, but is unable to tell his wife the truth. Kenji experiences bullying at school and secretly takes piano lessons rather than the karate lessons his parents pay for. Housewife Megumi lacks something in her life. Taka decides to join the U.S. Army. How far will the Sasaki family go to hide their lies?

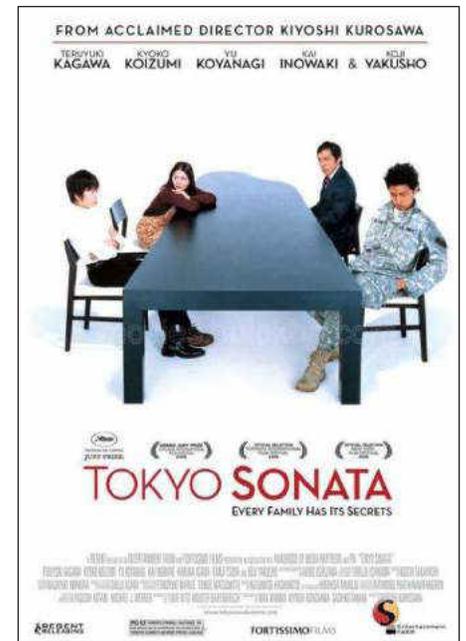
Directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, *Tokyo Sonata* won Best Film at the Asian Film Awards and the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., April 26. 119 min. Color. Japanese audio,

English subtitles. Free admission. All welcome to attend. Feel free to bring your own snacks or enjoy the light refreshments we supply.

トウキョウ ソナタ

トウキョウの、線路沿いの小さなマイホームで暮らす4人家族の佐々木家は、ごく平凡な家庭である。しかし小学6年生の次男・健二(井之脇海)には、家族に内緒にしている秘密があった。それは、父親に反対されたピアノを隠れて習っていることだった。父・竜平(香川照之)は厳格な父親で、健二の話にまったく耳を傾けようとしめない。母・恵(小泉今日子)はおやつにドーナツを作ってくれるような優しい母親だが、いつもつまらなそうにしている。大学生の長男・貴(小柳友)はアルバイトに明け暮れていて、何を考えているのかわからない。それでも、夕食は家族と一緒に食べるような、普通の家族であった。しかし、秘密を抱えているのは健二だけではなく。実は、竜平は会社からリストラされていた。しかし、それを家族に打ち明けられずに、父親としての威厳と、自分の弱さの間で揺れ動いていた。一方、貴は日本



を出て、アメリカ軍に入隊しようとしていた。そんなある日、佐々木家に異変が起こる。健二が帰宅すると、家の中は荒らされており、誰もいなくなっていた...

受賞：第3回アジア・フィルム・アワード、第61回カンヌ国際映画祭、その他。

公開：2008、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：119分、カラー、4月26日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

花flowers

Spring and April naturally bring flowers to mind. We decorate baby Buddha's *hanamido* altar with a variety of flowers during our *Hanamatsuri* celebration of his birth.

The word "April" itself is from the Latin *aprire*, "to open," referring to the opening of flowers. Even the classic Japanese name for April, *uzuki* (卯月) means "the month of *unohana*," a deutzia flower.

Sakura are at their wondrous glory at this time through most of Japan. The centuries-old tradition of *hanami*, or cherry blossom viewing, is still a favorite pastime today, and why wouldn't it be, with not only the exquisite blossoms to gaze at but often accompanied by lots of food, drink and merriment?

At the more popular *sakura* viewing spots in Japan's big cities, you'll often see blue plastic tarps spread out under the trees from early in the morning. The areas are being reserved for *hanami* parties after work later in the day.

One can imagine that the *hanami* custom was originally an aristocratic pursuit, when nobles would sip fine *sake*, view the delicate falling petals, contemplate life and compose poetry.

The Buddhist priest Ryokan must've been similarly inspired when he wrote this *haiku*:

散る桜 Chiru sakura,
残る桜も Nokoru sakura mo
散る桜 Chiru sakura

Falling cherry blossoms
Remaining cherry blossoms will
also become
Falling cherry blossoms.

In other words, every living thing will die sooner or later. The first time I heard this poem was at a funeral service conducted by Rev. Hiromi Kawaji of Aiea Hongwanji some 15 years ago, and I recall being touched by its simplicity and quite impressed by its profoundness at the same time.

From the raucous celebrating that goes on at many cherry blossom viewing parties, you may get the



Viewing cherry blossoms is a national pastime in Japan, where family, friends and co-workers gather to celebrate the advent of spring. The revelry often continues through the evening hours.

impression that the *hanami* revelers just might be more interested in eating, drinking and socializing than in admiring the beauty of the blossoms. The saying, *Hana yori dango* (花より団子), or "Dumplings rather than flowers," aptly describes this kind of preference of practical, material benefit over aesthetics.

While the *sakura* surely takes center stage at this time of year, let's not forget the talented supporting cast of flowers that are crowd-pleasers on their own.

The Japanese plum (梅), or *ume*, bloom before the *sakura*, and come with a sweet fragrance as a bonus.

Providing a nice contrast to the *sakura*, and strutting their stuff about the same time, are the bright yellow rape blossoms (菜の花), or *nanohana*.

The elegant hanging wisteria (藤), or *fuji*, are a sight to behold, and boast a heavenly scent to boot.

After the cherry blossoms fall, the various shades of azaleas (躑躅), or *tsutsuji*, bring a colorful change of scenery to gardens and parks.

Of course, we have our beautiful flowers in Hawaii, too. Having blossoms year-round may tend to spoil us and we often forget to count our own blessings.

— Ken Saiki

Call for "A Taste of Dana" donation items

The Goenki Banquet Committee is excited to announce "A Taste of Dana," our Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii District fundraiser in conjunction with our 750th anniversary observance of Shinran Shonin's passing to be held this fall at the Ala Moana Hotel.

If you haven't already marked your calendar for Sat., Nov. 5, for the Goenki banquet, do it now, as you won't want to miss this opportunity to share and network with other sangha friends.

"A Taste of Dana" will showcase donated items to be sold at the banquet for \$5 each, similar to ¥500 "one-coin markets" in Japan.

All temples are encouraged to participate by creating handicrafts, cards, jams, cookies, salt seasoning or other non-perishable items to be sold for \$5. Sorry, perishable items that

won't stand up to heat or need refrigeration cannot be accepted.

All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Hawaii District's "Helping Fukushima Children to Recover" youth respite care project.

If you have questions, please contact Charlann Nakamoto at charlann.nakamoto@gmail.com or call her at 247-5089.



Proceeds from the benefit bazaar will help support the Fukushima Children project.

The 12th World Dōbō Gathering

Dōbō: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity

HIGASHI HONGANJI

Friday, April 29, 2016!

Learning from the Past - Living in the Present - Visioning the Future
Aprendendo com o Passado - Vivendo o Presente - Vislumbrando o Futuro



DAY 4: August 29 (Monday)

- Depart hotel 9:00 am
- Depart LAX 1:50 pm Universal City
- Transfer to Monte Carlo
- Free at leisure

DAY 5: August 30 (Tuesday)

- Free at leisure

DAY 6: August 31 (Wednesday)

- Depart hotel 9:30 am
- Depart LAS 12:30 pm Universal City
- Depart SFO 4:05 pm Universal City

Price: \$2,116 per person, double occupancy

A \$300 non-refundable deposit is required at time of booking.

Please call 562.433.8888 (Sat) and 8.28.2016 (Sun)

Mundial Budista Dōbō

Unidade em Meio a Diversidade

世界同朋大会

HIGASHI HONGANJI
shinshū Otani-ha

主催 真宗大谷派 (東本願寺)

Higashi Honganji North America District | Hilton Los Angeles / Universal City

ロサンゼルス別院 | ヒルトンロサンゼルスユニバーサルシティ



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

APRIL

- 4/3 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school**
- 4/10 Sun 10 am **HBC Buddha Day and Betsuin Hanamatsuri service**
Joint Hawaii Buddhist Council service held at Betsuin hondo (main hall)
Refreshments at Otani Center
Food collection for homeless/houseless
- 4/12 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele class/band practice**
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/14 Thu 7 pm **ABCs of Buddhism study class**
led by Rinban Kawawata in English
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/17 Sun 10 am **Sunday service & Sunday school**
- 4/17 Sun 12 pm **Betsuin board meeting**
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/19 Tue 7 pm **O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin**
- 4/24 Sun 10 am **Sunday service & Sunday school**
- 4/24 Sun 12 pm **Art of Paper Crafting class**
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/26 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele class/band practice**
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/26 Tue 6:30 pm **Movie night: *Tokyo Sonata* (2008)**
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 4/28 Thu 10 am **Shinran Shonin memorial service**

MAY

- 5/1 Sun 10 am **Shōtsuki memorial service & Sunday school**
- 5/1 Sun 12 pm **Jimmy's Car Care class**
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 5/8 Sun 10 am **Mother's Day family service & Sunday school**
Otoki lunch prepared by temple men
- 5/8 Sun 12 pm **Basic Buddhism study class**
現代語で仏教を聞こう
led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
- 5/10 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele class/band practice**
- 5/12 Thu 7 pm **ABCs of Buddhism study class**
led by Rinban Kawawata in English
Fukuhara Conference Room
- 5/15 Sun 10 am **Shinran Shonin Birthday service & Sunday school**
- 5/15 Sun 12 pm **Betsuin board meeting**
- 5/17 Tue 7 pm **O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe**
- 5/22 Sun 10 am **Sunday service & Sunday school**
- 5/24 Tue 3 pm **Ukulele class/band practice**
- 5/24 Tue 6:30 pm **Movie night: *Fires on the Plain* (1959)**
- 5/28 Sat 10 am **Shinran Shonin memorial service**
- 5/29 Sun 10 am **All Wars Memorial service & Sunday school**

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.