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harmony

Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Bulletin

June 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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Editor: Ken Saiki

Looking back at a mother's love

Keizaburo Tsuji

The following is a transcript of a dharma message presented by Kei Tsuji at our Sunday family service on May 8. This special Mother's Day message is part of Betsuin's ongoing lay speaker program to allow members to share what they have learned, their life experiences and daily perspectives with others.

Today is the second Sunday of May. It is Mother's Day in the US. It's also Mother's Day in quite a few other countries—including Japan—but the date isn't universal. Depending on where you live, Mother's Day can be observed on different dates throughout the year. In Argentina, for example, Mother's Day is the 3rd Sunday of October, while in Indonesia, December 22nd is Mother's Day.

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. In this sense, it is a singular holiday where each family celebrates the mothers in their own family, rather than all the mothers in the world. And that's why it's called "*Mother's* Day," and not "*Mothers'* Day."

Lay speaker Keizaburo Tsuji shares his reflections on his mother's love.

Anyway, when you think or talk about your mother, you probably recall many fond memories, especially experiences you shared with your mother in childhood. Your mother was always there protecting you and watching over you with love. Your mother's nurturing and compassion are no doubt strongly imprinted on your memory system and easily come up whenever you think of her. Throughout your life, your mother's shared wisdom and lessons assist you as you encounter difficulties or adversity.

I've been told that during World War II many young Japanese men lost their lives as *kamikaze* pilots. On the night before leaving on their missions, and facing certain adversity, they stood on the airfield and would shout as loudly as possible, "Okaasaaaan!" ("Motherrrr!").

My own mother was raised as an only daughter in a well-to-do family. When she married into the Tsuji family, she continued to enjoy a life of privilege, assisted by a large household staff. She had maids to do everything for her. Normal cooking and domestic chores were not familiar activities. Hers was a soft and leisurely life.

Then, once the war started, all domestic staff and maids were mobilized to work in the factories. My mother then had to take on all of the domestic work herself. I was surprised by how strong my mother really was. In addition to taking on the unfamiliar work of running of a large house single-handedly, she was able to lead the entire family during the difficulties. Whenever I think of my mother, I cannot help but praise, honor and extend my gratitude.

I think all of you have similar memories with your mothers. In this sense, I can say that all mothers are full of love, compassion and enormous strength.

Someone once asked a Buddhist leader for an explanation of Amida's Vow, which he was having trouble understanding. The Buddhist leader replied that Amida's Vow is something like a mother's compassion for her child. Mother always watches over the child. The child, while unaware of the mother's watchful eye, moves as he pleases, until he makes a wrong move... then Mother corrects him. We cannot see Amida's Vow, but we are always under Amida's guidance and protection.

In Kyoto, there are many, many temples. Each temple has a beautiful garden with a quiet atmosphere. Among them, I like Eikan-do very much.

(cont'd on p. 2)

Mother's Day *(cont'd from p.1)*

Eikan-do is well known for its beautiful scenery in the fall, and for its beautiful *gohonzon* Amida statue, the principal image of the temple. As seen there and in other places, Amida statues are standing facing toward you from the center

The backward glance by Eikan-do's Mikaeri Amida is likened to a mother's love for her child.

of the altar. Only the Amida statue at Eikan-do is shown looking back over its shoulder. Because of that unusual posture, Eikan-do's Amida statue is called *Mikaeri Amida*. In looking at Amida's gesture, you may learn many teachings of Amida Buddha. Amida is constantly watching over us to ensure we are on the right track.

The other day I was taking a walk at Magic Island at Ala Moana Park. A young mother was with her 3- or 4-year-old daughter. The child was following a few steps behind the mother. The mother was frequently looking back over her shoulder, making sure of her daughter's safety. Through her frequent turning I could visualize the mother's love. When I compared her posture with Eikan-do's Mikaeri Amida Buddha, I realized that Mikaeri Amida is showing us Amida's profound love, like a mother's love for her child. Just as a child has trust in his mother's love without doubt, we should trust in Amida's love.

On this happy Mother's Day, let's take a moment to reflect on the significant connection between Mother's love and Amida's Vow.

News on the Betsuin Wireless

Learn about the world's religions

What's in the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Christian scriptures that followers find so compelling, so as to guide their daily lives, in some instances to the point of "extremism"?

Here's your opportunity to unravel some of the mystery in a series of four Dharma Study Center lectures at Higashi Hongwanji by Dr. George Tanabe, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religion, UH - Manoa.

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*

Each lecture is scheduled to run from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. There is a $9 fee per lecture. For more information, please call 531-9088.

Men prep lunch on Mother's Day

It wasn't the same as the renown Sunday Brunch at the Halekulani, but no less love went into it.

The temple men whipped up their favorite creations, including temaki-zushi, miso soup, kakuma kimpira, yakisoba and pudding, and brought some Zippy's chili as insurance.

No Yelp reviews of the spread were available as of press time.

Ozu's masterpiece, *Late Spring,* is movie of the month for June

In post-World War II Japan, 27-year-old Noriko (Setsuko Hara) lives a simple but happy life in Kita-Kamakura with her father, Shukichi Somiya (Chishu Ryu), who lost his wife early. Pressed to get married, Noriko would rather stay single and take care of her beloved father. When told that her father will remarry, Noriko has to make a difficult decision...

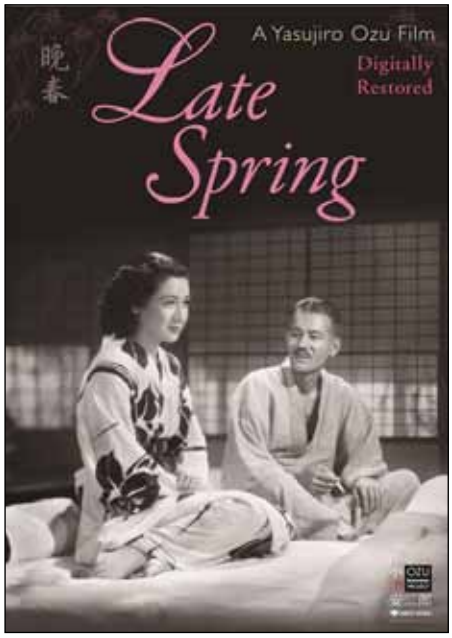
If you enjoyed the movie shown in December, *Tokyo Story,* then *Late Spring,* by the same revered director, Yasujiro Ozu, is for you, with its classic memorable scenes which have made cinematic history.

The movie won Best Movie in 1949 in Japan's Kinema Junpo and since then has become very well-known and loved worldwide as one of the *greatest films of all time,* including a Top 15 ranking in 2012 by the British Film Institute (BFI).

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., June 28. 108 min. B&W. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments provided.

晩春　（ばんしゅん）

本作以降、小津安二郎 監督作品でしばしば登場する、結婚を巡る父と娘の物語をこれが最初となる笠智衆、原節子の共演で描く感動作。北鎌倉で一人娘の紀子と２人で暮らす大学教授の曽宮周吉(笠智衆)。妻を早くに亡くしたこともあり、紀子は27歳になる今でも父を置いてよそへ嫁ごうとはしなかった。いつまでも渋る紀子を結婚させるため、周吉はついにある決断をするのだった…。



親娘が語らい共に枕を並べるシーンは今や世界映画史的名シーン。以後、彼女は小津作品を象徴する存在となった。

1949年度のキネマ旬報の日本映画部門で1位に輝いている。日本国外でも非常に高い評価を得ており、英国映画協会(BFI)選定の2012年版「批評家が選ぶ史上最高の映画トップ50」で15位に輝いている。

モノクロ 、 言語：日本語、 字幕：英語 、映時間：108分、6月28日(火)午後6:30時 、入場無料。

Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Retreat Program

Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Local Dharma Gathering

Theme: "Awakening to Your Deepest Wish"

Date: Sunday, June 5, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Rev. Hiroko Maeda
(Minister at Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji)

Place: Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St., Honolulu, HI 96817
Telephone (808) 531-9088

Rev. Hiroko Maeda

Rev. Maeda was born in Chiba, Japan.

She received her first ordination, Tokudo, at the age of nine, but she was more into sports — basketball.

After high school, she enrolled at and graduated from Hawaii Community College in Hilo, majoring in food service. During college, she became interested in Buddhism through meeting with Hawaii Buddhist ministers and members. In 2010, she decided to go to Dobo University in Aichi to study Shin Buddhim and received her Kyoshi.

In April 2012, she was assigned to Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji as the resident minister.

Detach here

I would like to participate in the Local Dharma Gathering on June 5, 2016.

Name: Phone:

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please Call Higashi Hongwanji
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii: (808)531-9088

A new feature film of Hitomi Kamanaka"Rokkasyo Rhapsody" "Ashes to Honey"
小さき声のカノン
—選択する人々
Little Voices
from Fukushima
Directed by Hitomi Kamanaka
1986.4.26
Chernobyl
2011.3.11
Fukushima
Here is hope.
Fukushima - Chernobyl
Documentary of mothers
who protect children from
"radiation exposure"
June 26(Sun),2016
12:00 p.m.
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
英語字幕版 Japanese Voice & English Subtitle
www.kamanaka.com/canon
2014 / colour / digital / 119min / Produced by BunBun films

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Temple Activities Calendar

JUNE

6/5	Sun	10 am	**Local dharma gathering** Guest speaker: Rev. Hiroko Maeda
6/9	Thu	7 pm	**ABCs of Buddhism study class** led by Rinban Kawawata in English
6/12	Sun	10 am	**Shōtsuki memorial service** & **Sunday school**
6/12	Sun	12 pm	**Basic Buddhism study class** led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
6/14	Tue	3 pm	**Ukulele class/band practice**
6/14	Tue	7 pm	**Hindu Scriptures:** *the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita*
6/15	Wed	7 pm	**Jewish Scripture:** *The Hebrew Bible*
6/16	Thu	7 pm	**Christian Scripture:** *The New Testament*
6/17	Fri	7 pm	**Islamic Scripture:** *The Koran*
6/19	Sun	10 am	**Father's Day family service & Sunday school**
6/19	Sun	12 pm	**Betsuin board meeting**
6/21	Tue	7 pm	**O-kō:** Dharma discussion at Betsuin
6/26	Sun	10 am	**Sunday service & Sunday school**
6/26	Sun	12 pm	**Little Voices from Fukushima** Documentary showing at Otani Center
6/28	Tue	10 am	**Shinran Shōnin memorial service**
6/28	Tue	3 pm	**Ukulele class/band practice**
6/28	Tue	6:30 pm	**Movie night:** *Late Spring* (1949)

JULY

7/3	Sun	10 am	**Shōtsuki memorial service** & **Sunday school**
7/3	Sun	12 pm	**Omigaki** - Polishing of altar ornaments
7/10	Sun	10 am	**Obon/Hatsubon service**
7/10	Sun	12 pm	**Basic Buddhism study class** 現代語で仏教を聞こう led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
7/12	Tue	3 pm	**Ukulele class/band practice**
7/14	Thu	7 pm	**ABCs of Buddhism study class** led by Rinban Kawawata in English
7/17	Sun	10 am	**Sunday service & Sunday school**
7/17	Sun	12 pm	**Betsuin board meeting**
7/19	Tue	6 pm	**Bon dance practice** at Otani Center *(6 pm: Ryukyu, 7 pm: Fukushima)*
7/19	Tue	7 pm	**O-kō:** Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
7/22	Fri	6:30 pm	**Manto-e service,** followed by **bon dance**
7/23	Sat	6:30 pm	**Manto-e service,** followed by **bon dance**
7/24	Sun	10 am	**Bon dance cleanup** (no Sunday service)
7/26	Tue	3 pm	**Ukulele class/band practice**
7/26	Tue	6:30 pm	**Movie night:** *Early Summer* (1951)
7/28	Thu	10 am	**Shinran Shōnin memorial service**
7/31	Sun	10 am	**Sunday service & Sunday school**
7/31	Sun	11:30 am	**Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning** Picnic lunch at Kakaako Waterfront Park

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.