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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

February 2017
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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

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE OVERSEAS DISTRICT ABBOT

To all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts, I wish you a Happy New Year. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming the new year together with you as a member of the sangha.

Last year, in comparison to past years, there were more opportunities to listen to the Dharma together with you in the overseas districts. There was the 12th World Dōbō Gathering held in the North America District in the summer, and the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shōnin held in the Hawaii District in conjunction with the Hawaii Betsuin Centennial in the fall, in addition to the Hōonkō Services in each district. I sincerely appreciated those precious opportunities. I especially enjoyed meeting with our fellow followers from all overseas districts at the Gathering in Los Angeles together with many participants from Japan. Those experiences have deepened my appreciation of how inconceivable the working of the Light of Amida is in uniting us beyond the boundaries of nationality and language.

I have come to feel that it is the responsibility of us Shinshū followers living in this modern society who have fortunately encountered this rare teaching to share the joy of the encounter with people around the world. I am convinced that only in the sharing of the teaching can we help to find rays of hope amidst the dark clouds of the world we live in.

Shandao, one of the Seven Patriarchs, expresses in one of his works as follows:

*"We vow to give equally to all people around the world,
This joy of encountering the teaching,
Together to realize our innermost aspiration to become a buddha,
And to awaken to the spirit of the Land of Peace and Happiness
created by Amida Buddha.*

I conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.



Chōyū Ōtani
Overseas District Abbot
Shinshū Ōtani-ha

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in the overseas districts.

My name is Hiroshi Tajima and I have been assigned as Chief Administrator of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha as of the end of last year. Since we have finished the renovation project of the buildings at the Shinshū Honbyō by observing the Commemoration Service of the Completion of the Renovation in November last year, we must now move ahead towards the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shōnin's Birth which will be celebrated together with the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū in 2023. As the new Chief Administrator, I will carry on the wish of the former Bishop Kōi Sato'o, who strongly encouraged us to open up a new horizon for our entire denomination in preparation for those major events. I realize the huge responsibility I have just assumed. I wish to ask all of you in our overseas districts for your continued support of our denomination.



Bishop Hiroshi Tajima
*Chief Administrator
Shinshū Ōtani-ha*

On the occasion of the New Year, I asked myself, "What is the spirit of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha?" My response was that it is the aspiration to create a sangha based on the teaching of the nenbutsu, just as Shinran Shōnin expressed in the postscript of the Kyōgyōshinshō, "Those who are born earlier guide

the succeeding generations and those who are born later learn from those who precede them."

Right at this moment, there are always intensifying conflicts in areas around the world. Those conflicts are caused by such attitudes as self-justification, and placing blame on others. As long as our minds are bound by differences in nationality, culture, and religion, those horrible incidents will never subside. Because we live in such a world, it is even more important for us to revive the spirit of the nenbutsu sangha where anyone can live together in mutual respect as fellow travelers beyond any boundaries.

I sincerely wish that all of us will deepen our appreciation of each other as members of the sangha walking the broad path to Buddhahood together this year.

In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE BETSUIN PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all, and we hope we can see you at our General Membership Meeting and Shinnen Enkai on Sunday, Feb. 26.

While the Year of the Rooster foretells of a more mellow, flexible year, 2017 is going to be another busy year for Higashi Hongwanji with varied programs and activities at the Betsuin. As



Faye Shigemura
Betsuin President

mentioned in Rinban's new year greeting in last month's Wa and echoed in messages by the Overseas District Abbot and Chief Administrator, we must focus our efforts to share the teaching in our community to create a new sangha for the future generations.

This year we start off with the always-anticipated Shinshu Center of America public lecture

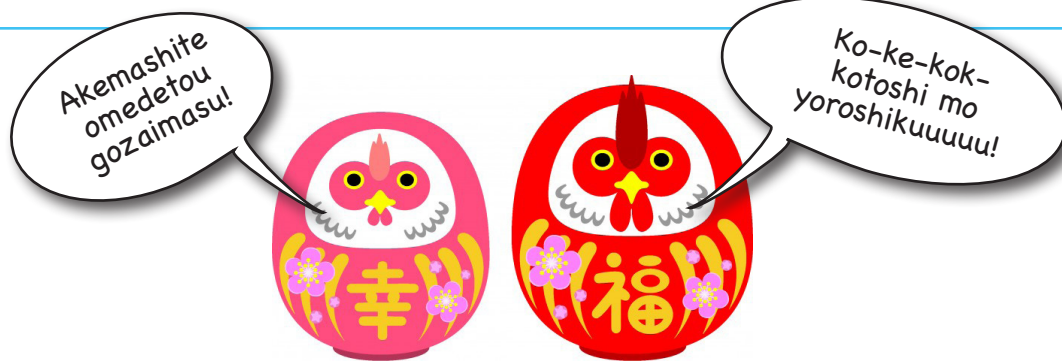
on Feb. 3 and a district dharma gathering on Feb. 4 at the Betsuin led by the dynamic Dr. Nobuo Haneda.

While several more lectures and educational opportunities are being planned for the year, you won't want to miss the chance to see and hear Dr. Haneda in action.

Of course, you can look forward to our regular activities such as our study classes in English and Japanese, craft sessions, movie nights, ukulele class, annual bon dance and more. We hope you'll find time to visit and participate in our activities.

Last year was quite eventful as we celebrated our Betsuin's 100th anniversary. This year, even without the kind of effort that went into the centennial planning, we have a full plate in front of us. We'd greatly appreciate your help on a committee, at our events or with temple chores.

Thank you to those who have already sent in their gojikai dues for 2017. If you haven't paid your annual dues of \$75.00, please mail your check, or stop by the office to make payment. Of course, you may also catch up on your dues when we see you at the membership meeting and New Year Party on Feb. 26. Mahalo!



To All Our Members: Long-time, New and Prospective!

You're Invited!

General Membership Meeting & Shinnen Enkai (New Year Party)

Sunday, February 26
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1685 Alaneo St. (corner N. Kuakini St.)

10:00 am Sunday service

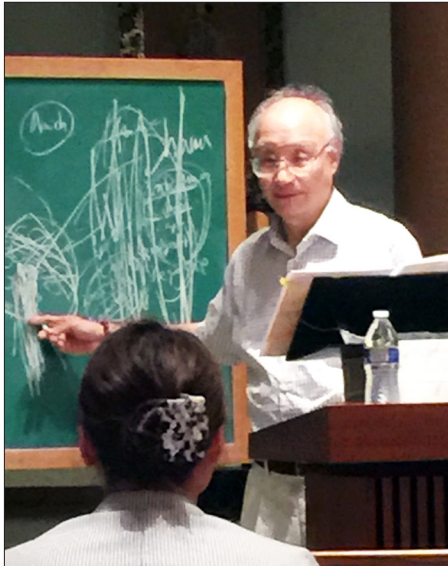
11:00 am General membership meeting

11:30 am Shinnen enkai (New Year party)

- Mouthwatering buffet selection!
- Unforgettable entertainment!
- Family-friendly games!
- Lucky Me! and exciting door prizes!
- Sing-along to oldtime favorites!
- **NO CHARGE TO ATTEND!**
(Donations always welcomed)

Reconnect with old friends and make new ones!

Call 531-9088 and let us know you're coming!



After his lectures, Dr. Haneda's chalkboard often resembles complex wiring diagrams.

Year starts off with excellent opportunities to hear teaching

Dharma teacher Dr. Nobuo Haneda will be back in Hawaii in February, with two of his sure-to-be informative, inspirational and entertaining presentations.

Friday, Feb. 3: Public Lecture.

First, Dr. Haneda is scheduled to speak on "Shakyamuni and Shinran: Buddhism as a Teaching of Self-examination." This free public lecture, sponsored by the Shinshu Center of America, will be held in the Betsuin's Hondo (main hall), 1685 Alaneo St., on Friday, Jan. 30, starting at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after the lecture.

Saturday, Feb. 4: District Gathering.

The next day, Dr. Haneda, who's Director of the Maida Center of Buddhism in Berkeley, will lead discussion at an all-day (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) District Dharma Gathering at the Betsuin's Otani Center. Theme is "Awakening to your Deepest Wish."

You'll surely want to take advantage of this chance to expand your knowledge and understanding of Jodo Shinshu with Dr. Haneda. The \$10 fee includes lunch.

Please call 531-1231 to register or for more information.

Our Little Sister may leave you misty-eyed but not disappointed

Our Little Sister (also known as *Uimimachi diary*) is a 2015 film directed by Hirokazu Koreeda.

There are three Kouda sisters: 29-year-old Sachi (Haruka Ayase), 22-year-old Yoshino (Masami Nagasawa) and 19-year-old Chika (Kaho). They live in the house of their grandparents in Kamakura, where they grew up after their parents had separated and left them. One day, they receive news of the death of their father whom they haven't seen in 15 years. At the funeral in Yamagata, they meet their 14-year-old half-sister Suzu Asano (Suzu Hirose). As there is nobody to take care of her, Sachi invites Suzu to live with them.

The performances received positive responses from critics. At the 2015 Japan Academy Awards it was named Best Film and Koreeda was named Best Director, and all four actresses who portrayed the sisters were awarded or nominated. (Haruka Ayase was nominated for Best Actress, Masami Nagasawa and Kaho were nominated for Best Supporting Actress and Suzu Hirose won Rookie of the Year). The film won the Audience Award at the San Sebastián International Film Festival, among numerous other awards.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Feb. 28, 126 min. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

海町diary (うみまちダイアリー)

鎌倉で暮らす、幸（29歳、綾瀬はるか）、佳乃（22歳、長澤まさみ）、千佳（19歳、夏帆）。そんな彼女たちのもとに、15年前に姿を消した父親が亡くなったという知らせが届く。葬儀が執り行われる山形へと向かった三人は、そこで父とほかの女性の間に生まれた異母妹すず（14歳、広瀬すず）と対面する。身寄りがなくなった今後の生活を前にしながらも、気丈かつ毅然と振る舞おうとするすず。その姿を見た幸は、彼女に鎌倉で自分たちと一緒に暮らさないかと持ち掛ける。こうして鎌倉での生活がスタートするが...



賞歴：第39回日本アカデミー賞、最優秀作品賞、最優秀監督賞（是枝裕和）、優秀主演女優賞（綾瀬はるか）、優秀助演女優賞（長澤まさみ、夏帆）、新人俳優賞（広瀬すず）、第63回サン・セバスチャン国際映画祭、観客賞、その他。

監督：是枝裕和、公開：2015年、カラー、言語：日本語、字幕：英語、映時間：126分、2月28日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

Betsuin presents check for Kumamoto earthquake relief



Following the catastrophic earthquake that devastated parts of Kumamoto in April 2016, the Betsuin put out the call for relief funds. Chief Administrator Koi Satoo receives a check from Betsuin President Faye Shigemura and Rinban Kenjun Kawawata for \$1,541.69, representing the amount collected from members to date.



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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2/3	Fri	7 pm	Public lecture by Dr. Nobuo Haneda Betsuin Hondo (Main Hall)
2/4	Sat	10 am	Joint Dharma Gathering - Dr. Haneda Betsuin Otani Center
2/5	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service/ Sunday school
2/5	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese
2/9	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English
2/12	Sun	10 am	New Year's family service
2/12	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class led by Jeanne Kawawata
2/14	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
2/19	Sun	10 am	Nirvana Day service/Sunday school
2/19	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting
2/21	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
2/26	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
2/26	Sun	11 am	General membership meeting & New Year's party at Otani Center
2/28	Tue	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
2/28	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice
2/28	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Our Little Sister</i> (2015)

MARCH

3/5	Sun	10 am	Shōtsuki memorial service/ Sunday school
3/5	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara conference room
3/9	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara conference room
3/12	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
3/14	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room
3/19	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
3/19	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara conference room
3/21	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
3/26	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school
3/26	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class led by Jeanne Kawawata
3/28	Tue	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
3/28	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room
3/28	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Makioka Sisters</i> (1983) Fukuhara conference room

Everyone is welcome to join the morning chanting held at 7 am daily (except on Sundays & the 28th day of the month) in the Betsuin main hall.