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HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

April 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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Editor: Ken Saiki

HANAMATSURI

An expression of our joy in being able to encounter the teachings of the Buddha

Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

In April we celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. In Japanese, this celebration is called *Hanamatsuri*, or Flower Festival.

It is said that when Buddha was born, he walked seven steps and pointed his right finger to the sky and his left finger to the ground. Then representing all human beings and all living beings, Buddha said, "Above the heaven, below the heaven, I am the only noble one," which means all the lives have the same quality as Buddha's life and all lives are very unique, precious and important.

Our life is so important and precious because we get only one chance to live this life right now. There are no other chances. Furthermore, 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 is why your life is precious and important. Just as important, we must realize that other lives are unique, precious and important, too. Therefore we have to respect each other and each other's lives.



Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

Rev. Kenko Yamashita, who was a bishop in the Soto Zen school in North America, once said, "People's lifestyles are different in this world. But regardless of circumstances, all people around the world have experiences that are both happy and sad."

We've all seen swans swimming gracefully across a pond. If we were able to look into the water, we would see that swan's feet are moving constantly in order to propel the swan towards its destination. All we see from our perspective, however, is the swan gliding effortlessly above the water. Like swans, people have experiences and difficulties that are unseen by others.

Buddha said that life is suffering. We live everyday trying our best to resolve the difficulties we encounter without much success.

(cont'd on p. 2)

Hanamatsuri 2017

Please join us for our special service commemorating the Buddha's birth



Betsuin Hanamatsuri service

Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 am
Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

1685 Alaneo St. (corner N. Kuakini St.)
Ph. 531-9088 for more information

Hanamatsuri melodies by
The Dharma Hawaiians ukulele ensemble

Dharma message by Rev. Koen Kikuchi

Light lunch will be served
immediately following the service.

HANAMATSURI (cont'd from p. 1)

The life of Shakyamuni Buddha was no different. He was born as prince of the Shakya Clan. He had everything one could imagine for a happy life.

However, he had the same anxieties and sufferings of aging, illness and death as other human beings. He realized that there was no escape from this reality. So he left his home palace and his family life to become a monk, searching for the way to true peace.

For six years he had learned from many teachers, and followed ascetic practices. However he could not find any answers that truly fulfilled him. As a result, he quit his ascetic practices, sat under the Bodhi tree and started to meditate on his life from the beginning.

A week later he attained his sought-after enlightenment. He had become a Buddha.

A Buddha is a person who has awakened to truth, or one's true self. He realized that he himself was an example of impermanence and could not escape from this reality and truth. He started sharing this truth called Dharma with others. He taught and shared the dharma for 45 years and opened the path for all humans. So Shakyamuni Buddha still lives in our lives through the teaching of Nembutsu.

The celebration of Hanamatsuri, therefore, is not only the celebration of the birth of one person who lived in history. Hanamatsuri 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.

I would like to invite everyone to join us at our Betsuin's Hanamatsuri Buddha Day service on April 9, starting at 10:00 am. Take part in the tradition of pouring *amacha*, or sweet tea, on the flower-decorated *tanjobutsu*, or statue of baby Buddha.

"Happy birthday, Buddha, and Happy Birthday, Everyone!"

Thank you in gassho,
Rinban Kenjun Kawawata

「花祭り」とは？ What is Hanamatsuri?

Hanamatsuri means "flower festival." It is the popular name for the Buddha's birthday celebration, which falls on the 8th of April and is traditionally called *bussho-e*, *tanjo-e*, *kanbutsu-e* and *Shakuson gotan-e*.

The first Hanamatsuri celebration was held in Hibiya Park, Tokyo, in 1917 by a joint group of Buddhists, headed by Ando Ryogan and Watanabe Kaikyoku.

This, however, was preceded by a birthday celebration for the Buddha held in Berlin in 1901 by

a group of 18 Japanese scholars who were studying there at the time, including Sonoda Shue, Haga Yaichi, Anezaki Masaharu, Minobe Tatsukichi, Matsumoto Bunzaburo, Ikeyama Eikichi and Chikazumi Jikan. They called this celebration *Blumfest*, German for "flower festival," which is the origin of Hanamatsuri.

The term is also used for the Shinto ceremonies held in December and January in parts of Aichi Prefecture.

A Dictionary of Japanese Buddhist Terms, Hisao Inagaki, 1984, p. 494.

SHOTSUKI OBSERVANCE FOR APRIL

Our monthly shōtsuki service on **Sunday, April 16** will give us an opportunity to remember temple family members who passed away in the month of April of a previous year.

This list includes members lost this month in the past 50 years.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a special anniversary service, please call the temple office at 531-9088.

Kanjiro Akizuki	Harry M. Kumamoto	Katsuyo Oda	Francis Torao Suzuki
Shimoe Grace Fujii	Heoji Kumashiro	Tsutomu Ogata	Marian Taguma
Shizu Fujimoto	Takeo Kunimoto	Yuku Ohara	Kitsu Takagi
Haru Fujiwara	Taki Kurisaki	George M. Omura	James N. Takayama
Henry K. Fukunaga	Kimino Matsuda	Larry Seiki Oshiro	Hisayo Takenaka
Harriet Y. Gushikuma	Yasu Matsuda	Rodney Yuji Oshiro	Tatsue Takeshita
Kingo Gushikuma	Edwin S. Matsuoka	Takashi Otsuka	Shigeru Tanaka
Chotaro Hane	Classie A. McForland	Ruth Ayako Pacheco	Takeshi Tanaka
Suna M. Harada	Harue Miike	Alice Sueko Ramos	Umeno Tanijo
Yoshiko Harauchi	Misue Miyamoto	Kiyoto Saiki	Edward Tokunaga
Shizuko Hayase	Chieko Moriguchi	Hoichi Sakakibara	Edward M. Tokunaga
Yoshimi Hayashi	Kihei Moriguchi	Kumeyo Sakamoto	George M. Tokunaga
Takeo Higa	Clarence T. Motoyama	Shinzo Sakamoto	Dorothy F. Torikawa
Chougo Higuchi	Takino Motoyama	Tane Sakamoto	Robert Kazuo Toyama
Takao Imayoshi	Henry Kichio Mukai	Matsuhei Saruwatari	Haruko Tsuda
Harue Iwaki	Ginichi Murakami	Keith Mitsugi Sato	Matsue Tsuji
Tadao Iwasaki	Toyoko Murotake	Chieko Sekiya	Richard M. Tsukiyama
Ralph Kikuo Kaizuka	Mutsu Nakagawa	Take Serikawa	Koichi Uesato
Dennis K. Kanemori	Myles M. Nakatsu	Ushi Shimabukuro	Tome Ujimori
Kikue Kaneshiro	Mitsue Nakayama	Takashi Shimada	Jean Shizuko Uyema
Hoichi Kashiwabara	Violet Y. Nakayama	Miyoko O. Shinkawa	Yukiye Uyeno
George Makoto Kaya	Helen H. Narimasu	Shigeru Shirabe	Mitsuyo Watanabe
Makoto Kaya	Patsy Hideko Nikaido	Miyoko Shiramizu	Toshiharu Yamada
Jean Misao Kobata	Takashi Nishida	James Seiki Shiroma	Kameno Yamamoto
Uto Koja	Shige Nishimi	Richard O. Sorida	Mitsue Yamamoto
Herbert S. Kondo	Juka Nishimura	Laura Sugai	Thomas M. Yamamoto
Tsunano Koyanagi	Mume Nishimura	Yutaka Sumida	Shizuko Yamamura
Masaru Kudo	Shizue Nishioka	Lorraine T. Sumiye	Tamayo K. Yoshimoto
			Henry Toshio Yoshino

Hawaii Buddhist Council's Annual **BUDDHA DAY SERVICE**

Hanamatsuri

Celebrating the Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha



Guest Speaker: Dr. George Tanabe

Date: April 2, 2017, Sunday

Time: 9:30 a.m.

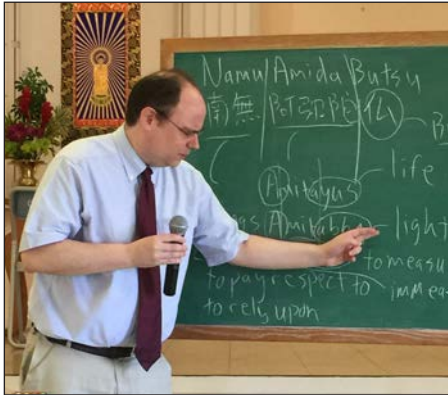
Place: Jodo Mission of Hawaii

1429 Makiki St., Honolulu, HI 96814

Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC) Buddha Day Food Drive 2017
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.

For more information, please call 949-3995



Dr. Conway explains the meaning and role of Namu Amida Butsu in Shinran's thoughts.

Dr. Conway leads Spring seminar

Otani University lecturer Rev. Dr. Michael Conway took a break from his project on the mainland U.S. to present a seminar on Shin Buddhism to Hawaii residents on behalf of the Shinshu Center of America on March 18 during Spring Ohigan.

Entitled *Liberation through Amida's Wisdom: Considerations of the 12 Names in Praise of Immeasurable Light*, Dr. Conway showed how the virtues of Immeasurable Light were praised by Shakyamuni Buddha, Master Tanluan and finally, by Shinran in the Wasan.

By dissecting and examining the words that comprise the nembutsu, Dr. Conway explained that constantly hearing and listening to what Namu Amida Butsu means is the essence of Shin Buddhist study.

Brainstorming ideas for our future

If "group-think" can help with creative problem-solving at Fortune 500 companies, maybe it can help generate ideas for the Betsuin.

We're setting aside some time at our April 23 Sunday service for a brainstorming session to help the Betsuin with new, creative ideas.

Please plan on joining this group effort. For this kind of activity, the more the merrier. No idea is a bad idea; in fact, outside-the-box ideas may stimulate even better solutions.

So please come and tell us! We'll jot down all ideas and thoughts.

Hospitalité: Welcome to Our House is April's featured movie

Mikio Kobayashi (Kenji Yamauchi) runs a print shop in Tokyo's downtown "Shitamachi" while living with his young wife, Natsuki (Kiki Sugino) and Eriko (Eriko Ono), his daughter from his former wife, Seiko (Kumi Hyodo). The family was content with a peaceful everyday life where nothing happened. A ruffian named Kentaro Kagawa (Kanji Furutachi) suddenly appears, takes over for a sick employee, gets room & board and disturbs the peace of the family. Moreover, Kagawa's "Brazilian" wife and others enter the picture and the life of the family is turned inside out and upside down...



This hilarious 2010 black comedy/drama directed by Koji Fukuda makes you wonder: Are illegal immigrants and the homeless truly the ones to blame for society's ills?

Awards include the 2010 Tokyo International Film Festival - Best Picture and 2012 Osaka Cinema Festival - Best New Actress.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., April 25, 95 min. Color. Japanese audio, English subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments, or bring to share!

歓待 (かんたい)

東京の下町で若い妻・夏希(杉野希妃)、前妻の娘・エリコ(オノ・エリコ)、出戻りの妹・清子(兵藤公美)と暮らしながら印刷屋を営む小林幹夫(山内健司)は、何も事件が起こらない平和な日常に満足していた。そんな小林家に無礼な加川花太郎(古舘寛治)という流れ者が突然現れて、一家の平和をかき乱す。その上から次へと来訪者が訪れ、一家は対応に追われるのだが...

賞歴: 第23回東京国際映画祭日本映画・ある視点: 最優秀作品賞、第7回大阪シネマフェスティバル-新人女優賞(杉野希妃)、その他。

監督: 深田晃司、公開: 2010年、カラー、言語: 日本語、字幕: 英語、映時間: 95分、4月25日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。



HONOLULU RAINBOW 5K EKIDEN RELAY RACE: The Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin relay team of Kevin Kawawata, Mai Kikuchi, Rev. Koen Kikuchi, Rev. Hideaki Nishihori (of Kaneohe) and Margaret Hamachi posted a 2:39:39 time to place 63rd out of 214 entrants, crossing the finish line together with the 62nd-place Hawaii District team.



HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
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TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

APRIL

4/2	Sun	9:30 am	HBC Buddha Day service Jodo Mission No service at Betsuin
4/9	Sun	10 am	Hanamatsuri service/Sunday school
4/9	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara conference room
4/11	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room
4/13	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara conference room
4/16	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki service/Sunday school
4/18	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Betsuin
4/23	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Brainstorming
4/23	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara conference room
4/23	Sun	12 pm	Art of Paper Folding class
4/25	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room
4/25	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Hospitalité</i> - 歓待 (2010) Fukuhara conference room
3/28	Tue	10 am	Shinran Shōnin memorial service
3/30	Sun	10 am	Sunday service/Sunday school

MAY

5/7	Sun	10 am	Shotsuki service/Sunday school
5/7	Sun	12 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese Fukuhara conference room
5/9	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room
5/11	Thu	7 pm	The Larger Sutra study class led by Rinban Kawawata in English Fukuhara conference room
5/14	Sun	10 am	Mother's Day family service/ Sunday school
5/16	Tue	7 pm	O-kō: Dharma discussion at Kaneohe
5/21	Sun	10 am	Shinran Shōnin's Birthday service Sunday school
5/21	Sun	12 pm	Betsuin board meeting Fukuhara conference room
5/23	Tue	3 pm	Ukulele class/band practice Fukuhara conference room
5/23	Tue	6:30 pm	Movie night: <i>Our Mother</i> - 母べえ (1984) Fukuhara conference room
5/28	Sun	10 am	All Wars memorial service Shinran Shōnin memorial service Sunday school

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.