

# 和

**‘WA’**  
harmony

## HIGASHI HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BULLETIN

September 2017

### 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

# GRATITUDE AT HŌONKO

Rev. Koen Kikuchi

On September 9 and 10, we will observe Hōonko, the memorial observance of our denomination’s founder, Shinran Shōnin. The Hōonko service is the most significant event for Jōdō Shinshu followers. We have learned and been nurtured by the Buddha Dharma through Shinran Shōnin. At this time, we express our gratitude and respect to Shinran Shōnin by gathering, chanting and hearing the Buddha Dharma together. This is the Hōonko tradition that we have observed up until now.



Rev. Koen Kikuchi

Thank you, Shinran Shōnin! I appreciate your great work! Are words like this the way we show our gratitude? Hōonko is the service in which we express appreciation, but how do we feel appreciation? I would like to reflect about what gratitude is and how we show appreciation.

As I mentioned, we usually say “thank you” or “I appreciate you” to show our gratitude to somebody. In Japanese, we say “arigatō,” as you of course know, but there are other ways of saying “thank you.” These include “gomen nasai” (I’m sorry) and “sumimasen” (excuse me).

If I want to make my way through a crowd of people, in English I might say, “Excuse me!” If I dropped something and someone picked it up for me, I say, “Thank you.” If I water the plants and flowers, and I accidentally spray water on someone, I say, “I’m sorry.” However, in Japanese, the word “sumimasen” can apply to all of these situations. “Sumimasen” contains the meanings of both appreciation and apology. The word also implies and demonstrates “humility” by putting oneself aside and respecting others.

Let’s look at marriage proposals. The traditional way of proposing is, “Will you marry me?” “Yes, I will.” In Japan, there are some interesting ways of proposing marriage. One is, “I want to drink your miso soup every day.” Another is, “Would you wash my underwear?” These are the old ways of asking. But now, people might say, “I will make your life happy.” And the answer is, “I’m willing, too.” This is a more direct expression, and they are stating their feelings honestly. But in the old days in Japan, when women were asked to wash underwear, they would reply, “Futsutsukamono desuga” (不束者ですが), or “I’m not worthy, (but I’m willing).” This is an example of the humble attitude that was prevalent in Japan.

We’ve just looked at two different examples of expressing humble appreciation and humble willingness. So how does this relate to our Jōdō Shinshu?

During Buddhist services, we say “Namu Amida Butsu.” Literally, Namu Amida Butsu means to take refuge in Amida Buddha, but when we check beneath the surface, the process actually involves someone receiving the teaching, then feeling gratitude and saying “Namu Amida Butsu” to show appreciation for the teaching.

However, Namu Amida Butsu itself is the name of Buddha, which  
(cont’d on p. 2)



Humble willingness and humble appreciation put one’s own self aside and allows us to respect others.

## HO-ON-KO (cont'd from p. 1)

is calling us as "take refuge in Amida Buddha!" Namu Amida Butsu is the calling from Buddha, which appears as the voices of teachers and dharma friends. Namu Amida Butsu is the calling, but also it is the answering. Namu Amida Butsu teaches us to take refuge in the Amida Buddha. Once we received the teaching, we recite Namu Amida Butsu to show our gratitude. This gratitude is not just the feeling of being joyful, but it is also the feeling of both sadness and relief. This is the humble expression of appreciation. I think I can say this is the same expression as "sumimasen," or putting our ego aside and showing our respect.

Buddhism is the teaching of self-examination. The teaching reveals our reality, which is usually what we don't want to accept. But when we accept the reality as it is, we can understand how much we were deluded by and attached to our self-ego. We suffer from our ego-centered thinking because we don't understand that the suffering is from that very thinking.

If we are in a dark room, we struggle and feel uncomfortable. But if we can see the inside of the room with light, we feel relieved. We can understand the darkness and the light of our surroundings at the same time. This is the same thing. We feel appreciation toward the light.

Once we receive the teaching, our room of life becomes more clear. We can then have confidence to live our lives with all its difficulties and sufferings. Namu Amida Butsu has feelings of both sadness and relief together, and it shows our humble appreciation to the Buddha Dharma.

Hōonko is the gathering during which we show our appreciation for Shinran Shōnin's work. He made the teachings clear that the Buddha Dharma is for anytime, anywhere and anyone.

Hōonko is the time to gather, chant and hear the Buddha Dharma along with Dharma friends. At this special time, we listen to the voice of Namu Amida Butsu and we recite Namu Amida Butsu together.

In Gassho,  
Koen Kikuchi

## HIGASHI HONGANJI HAWAII DISTRICT HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

*You are cordially invited to our*

### Hōonko Gathering "Gratitude"

*Saturday, September 9*

*1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

*\$10 fee. Please call 533-9088 to register.*

### Hōonko Service

*Sunday, September 10*

*10:00 a.m.*

*Hōonko Gathering & Service speaker: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi  
West Covina Buddhist Temple*

*We gather to express our appreciation to Shinran Shonin  
for showing us the teaching of the Nembutsu.*

*Light meals immediately following Gathering and Service.*

### 報恩講法要

日時：9月10日(日)午前10時

英語法話：見義 信香 師

ウエスト・コビナ東本願寺開教使

法要後お齋がございます。以上の予定となっております。  
どうぞご家族お揃いで法要にお参りください。

### Guest Speaker: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi was born in Toyama, Japan. Both of her parents and her brother are also ministers.

She first visited the U.S. in 1996 while at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA for her master's thesis.

She subsequently received her Masters of Arts degree from the University of Shizuoka in 1997.

She received the Tokudo and Kyoshi in the Higashi Honganji Shinshu Otani-ha tradition, and was ordained in 2000. The following year, she returned to the U.S. and the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, graduated with



a Masters degree in 2004 and then served as a minister and part of the office staff at Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles.

Rev. Miyoshi returned to Japan to train at the Higashi Honganji headquarters in Kyoto in 2008, and after two months of training,

received Kaikyoshi (Overseas Status). She was then assigned to Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in LA, where she remained until 2014, when she was transferred to West Covina Buddhist Temple, her current assignment.

Rev. Miyoshi is married to Rev. William Briones, a minister at Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin.





BBQ chicken and musubi, synonymous with picnics and family gatherings, are also part of our annual fundraising efforts.

## Mahalo for your help with our BBQ chicken/musubi fundraiser

A sincere *Thank You!* goes out to all our members and friends for their ticket purchases and donations at our barbecue chicken fundraiser. We're also grateful for the volunteers who helped with the Aug. 27 distribution.

Our chicken sale was enhanced this year by inclusion of a musubi combo at a lower price and tasty andagi.

*Dōmo arigatō to everyone!*

## Give Aloha matching gifts boost your temple donation

The Foodland and Western Union Foundation will partially match each donation made to our temple in the month of September up to \$249 per person at any Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms checkout.

Here's all you need to do to multiply your temple donation dollars through Give Aloha during the entire month of September:

- At the checkout, show your Foodland Mai'kai Club card.
- Let the cashier know you're making a Give Aloha donation to **Higashi Hongwanji**, or give our 5-digit code number, **78784**.
- Inform the cashier of the amount of your donation—any amount up to \$249—which will be added to your grocery total. You can pay in cash, by check or by credit/debit card.



You don't have to make a purchase to make a donation.

- The checkout cashier will give you a receipt, which will indicate "Higashi Hongwanji" and the donation amount. Keep it for income tax purposes, since it is your official record of your tax-deductible contribution to our 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Consult your tax adviser for more details about eligible deductions.
- Ask for a duplicate receipt, which you may want to send to us or drop off at our office so we can acknowledge your gift.

If you don't already have a Mai'kai card, ask and you'll get one at no charge at the register.

Your temple donation can enjoy an extra boost through the Give Aloha program. But remember...this program ends September 30!

## Japan Times gives timely *Hāfu* documentary ★★★★★ rating

One in 49 babies born in Japan today is born into families with one non-Japanese parent. This newly emerging minority in Japan is under-documented and under-explored in both literature and media. The feature-length documentary, "*Hāfu* – the mixed-race experience in Japan" opens this increasingly important dialogue. Exploring race, diversity, multiculturalism, nationality and identity within the mixed-race community of Japan, the film seeks to answer the following questions: What does it mean to be *hāfu*; What does it mean to be Japanese?; and ultimately, What does all of this mean for Japan?

Narrated by the *hāfu* themselves, along with candid interviews and cinéma vérité footage, the viewer is guided through a myriad of *hāfu* experiences that are influenced by upbringing, family relationships, education and even physical appearance. As the film interweaves five unique life stories, audiences discover the depth and diversity of *hāfu* personal identities.

Showtime: 6:30 pm, Tues., Sep. 26, 90 min. Color. Japanese/English audio, English/Japanese subtitles. Free admission. Light refreshments.

## ハーフ

厚生労働省の統計によると、日本の新生児の49人に1人が、日本人と外国人の間に生まれています。この新たに浮上したマイノリティについては、文献も十分ではなく、メディアでも深く取りあげられていません。長編ドキュメンタリー映画『ハーフ』は、重要な会話の糸口となることを目的としています。

本作品では、日本の多文化・多文化社会での人種、多様性、多文化、国籍やアイデンティティを取りあげます。この探求を通して、次のような質問を投げかけようとしています；ハーフであるとは、ということなのか？日本人であるという意味は？一体、それは日本にとって、どういう意味を持つのか？



主人公であるハーフたち自身のナレーションと率直なインタビューに、シネマベリターの映像を重ねて、ハーフたちの生い立ちや家族の関係、教育、時には彼らの外見が影響する彼らの体験を探ることができます。5人の人生をとうして、ハーフたちが体験する個人的且つ奥深い側面も垣間見ることができます。

公開：2013年、カラー、言語：日本語・英語、字幕：英語・日本語、映時間：90分、9月26日(火)午後6:30時、入場無料。

# Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

*Please join us at our*

## *Fall Ohigan Service*

*Higan, meaning "The Other Shore of Awakening," is a service conducted on or about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. At these times of the year, we endeavor to strengthen our commitment to the Buddhist life.*

**Date: Sunday, September 17**

**Time: 10:00 am**

**Dharma message: Rev. Tatsuo Muneto**

Former Rinban, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

*Light lunch to follow after service*



Rev. Tatsuo Muneto was born on March, 8, 1941 and raised in Hiroshima, Japan. He graduated from Ryukoku University with a BA in Buddhist Studies in 1964. He came to Hawaii in August, 1965, and was assigned to be Assistant Director of Hawaii Kyodan Department of Sunday School.

Rev. Muneto received a Hawaii Kyodan scholarship in 1967 and enrolled at Claremont Graduate University in California, and finished the MA program in Religion and Asian Studies. Returning to the Hawaii Kyodan in 1970, he was assigned to various temples in Honolulu and on the Big Island and Kauai. He retired from the Rinban's position at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on December 15, 2015 at age 75.

While he served at local temples, he went to India twice and to China on pilgrimage tours. He wants to visit China again in a few years. In 1995 he published a book entitled "Dharma Treasures, Spiritual Insights from Hawaii's Shin Buddhist Pioneers."

## 秋のお彼岸法要

**日時： 9月17日（日）午前10:00時**

**法話： 宗藤 達雄 師（前本派本願寺ハワイ別院輪番）**

※ 法要後お斎がございます。ご家族お揃いでお参りください。



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## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

|      |     |         |   |
|------|-----|---------|---|
| 9/3  | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Shōtsuki service/Sunday school</b>   |
| 9/3  | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Omigaki</b> polishing of altar accessories<br>Your kokua is appreciated  |
| 9/4  | Mon | 10 am   | <b>Betsuin study class</b>  |
| 9/9  | Sat | 1 pm    | <b>District Hōonko gathering</b><br>Guest speaker: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi  |
| 9/10 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Hōonko service/Sunday school</b>   |
| 9/12 | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>  |
| 9/14 | Thu | 7 pm    | <b>The Larger Sutra</b> study class<br>led by Rinban Kawawata in English  |
| 9/16 | Sat | 10 am   | <b>Oahu MAP class</b>   |
| 9/17 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Ohigan service/Sunday school</b><br>Guest speaker: Rev. Tatsuo Muneto  |
| 9/17 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Betsuin board meeting</b>  |
| 9/18 | Mon | 10 am   | <b>Betsuin study class</b>  |
| 9/19 | Tue | 7 pm    | <b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Kaneohe   |
| 9/24 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Ehime Maru Memorial cleaning</b><br>Meet at Betsuin, carpool to Kakaako Park<br><b>Short service and picnic lunch</b><br>(no service at Betsuin) |
| 9/26 | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>  |
| 9/26 | Tue | 6:30 pm | <b>Movie night: <i>Hāfu</i> (ハーフ) (2013)</b>  |
| 9/28 | Thu | 10 am   | <b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>  |

### OCTOBER

|       |     |         |  |
|-------|-----|---------|--|
| 10/1  | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Eitaikyō and Shōtsuki service/<br/>Sunday school</b>  |
| 10/1  | Sun | 12pm    | <b>The Larger Sutra</b> study class<br>led by Rinban Kawawata in Japanese<br>無量寿経 日本語仏教講座<br>現代語で仏教を聞こう! |
| 10/2  | Mon | 10 am   | <b>Betsuin study class</b>   |
| 10/8  | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Sunday service/Sunday school</b>  |
| 10/10 | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>   |
| 10/12 | Thu | 7 pm    | <b>The Larger Sutra</b> study class<br>led by Rinban Kawawata in English<br>Fukuhara conference room     |
| 10/14 | Sat | 9 am    | <b>Garage sale</b><br>Otani Center   |
| 10/15 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Sunday service/Sunday school</b>  |
| 10/15 | Sun | 12 pm   | <b>Betsuin board meeting</b>   |
| 10/16 | Mon | 10 am   | <b>Betsuin study class</b>   |
| 10/17 | Tue | 7 pm    | <b>O-kō:</b> Dharma discussion at Betsuin  |
| 10/22 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Sunday service/Sunday school</b>  |
| 10/24 | Tue | 3 pm    | <b>Ukulele class/band practice</b>   |
| 10/24 | Tue | 6:30 pm | <b>Movie night: <i>The Face of Another</i> (他人の顔)</b>  |
| 10/28 | Sat | 10 am   | <b>Shinran Shōnin memorial service</b>   |
| 10/29 | Sun | 10 am   | <b>Sunday service/Sunday school</b>  |

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.