

A Brief Update from the Betsuin Board (*a Dec. 2017 Goji insert*)

Our last report on Betsuin Board discussions and actions was in May, so it's high time for an update! One reminder is that the current two-year board term concludes at the end of this year. Betsuin members will soon have the opportunity to vote on a slate of officers and directors to be installed for the 2018-2019 term at our annual meeting in January.

Much discussion in recent months has been related to the Centennial of our main temple building, which turns 100 years old in 2018. There are two main topic areas: 1) Centennial renovation projects scope and design, and 2) fundraising for Centennial projects and replenishment of our General Development Fund (reduced due to major fumigation and painting projects).

The board has identified these priority Centennial projects:

- Renovation of the lounge and the smaller, adjacent classroom
- Expansion of the restroom facility on the temple level (what was the "PBA bathroom")
- Preparing first-floor classroom spaces being vacated by PBA for use by BWA
- Improving the audio and lighting systems in the hondo

At our September and October meetings, two architectural firms presented options for renovations. The idea is to meet high demand for meeting space internally and also make the lounge attractive to outside groups to rent. This will have the added benefit of exposing more people to Hawaii Betsuin as a historic and valuable community resource. We have not yet selected the design or the firm.

If you would like to provide input on the projects listed above — or other potential temple renovation projects that may be a priority for you or your group — please communicate your thoughts to Jerry, Dexter, Stacy, or another board member. It can start with a conversation but specific, written feedback prior to our December 17 board meeting is most helpful.

At our October meeting, we also heard three presentations from fundraising consultants on their varying approaches to assisting organizations with fundraising campaigns. We are evaluating what kind of consulting and/or staffing we'll need for a successful campaign.

Regardless of specifics for project plans and campaigns, our sangha is turning the page on a remarkable 100 years at our current temple site. Now especially is a time to reflect with gratitude on those who came before and the deep commitments they made to build and maintain the beautiful temple we enjoy today. Each of us has the opportunity to help ensure the temple continues to be a vibrant place for sharing the living teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism a hundred years from now.

- *David Atcheson, Board Secretary*