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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

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NEWSLETTER
of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
www.hawaiibetsuin.org

2017 Slogan:

Embrace Change:
Action
(Open Communications)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
Rev. Joshin Kamuro

New Year's Message from Monshu, OHTANI Kojun

New Year's Greeting

At the beginning of this New Year,
I would like to extend my warmest
greetings to you.

This past year, we have been
observing the ceremony known
as The Commemoration on the
Accession of the Jodo Shinshu
Tradition since last October. This
service will be continuing until the
end of May over 10 sessions and a
total of 80 days. The participation
of the many delegates from both
domestic and overseas districts
has revitalized the atmosphere of
all of our temple activities, and for
that I am truly happy and grateful to each and every one of you.



Through holding the service together with you fellow Nembutsu followers, I am able to personally experience how the Jodo Shinshu teaching has not only been passed down to us over the span of nearly 800 years, but also how it has been delivered to many regions of the world beyond national borders. I believe that we have the Jodo Shinshu teaching today precisely because it served as the spiritual foundation for all of the preceding Nembutsu followers.

Shinran Shonin revealed his understanding of the Dharma known today as Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. It is a teaching for those of us who constantly struggle with various worries and hardships in life. Let us continue to listen to the teaching and share our own appreciation of the Dharma with family and friends in the hope that we can follow the Nembutsu path together with them.

January 1, 2017

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin 2017 Hoonko Services Scheduled for January 14, 2017 7:00 PM and January 15, 2017 9:30 AM

You are cordially invited to attend the Hawaii Betsuin's 2017 Hoonko Services scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm and Sunday January 15, 2017 at 9:30 am. Hoonko is an important service for Jodo Shinshu followers as this is the time we express our sincere gratitude to our Founder, Shinran Shonin who dedicated his life to spreading the joy and teachings of the Nembutsu Path. Despite many hardships and, at times, risking his life, he never gave up on his quest to share the Nembutsu message with everyone he encountered. It is due to Shinran's

incredible journey that we are now able to rejoice in Amida's Wisdom and Compassion that Illuminates us every moment of our lives!

About the Dharma Teacher, Reverend Shigenori Makino

Our guest speaker for the Hoonko service is Rev. Shigenori Makino. Rev. Makino was born in Kitakyushu-city in Fukuoka, Japan. He studied Jodo Shinshu Buddhism at Ryukoku University and graduated from both undergraduate and master's programs. Then he studied psychology at Wiconona State University. His ministerial career started at the Sapporo Betsuin in Hokkaido, Japan. He also served at the Wailuku Hongwanji, Kailua Hongwanji, Moiliili Hongwanji, Toronto



Buddhist church in Canada and Hawaii Betsuin as Rimban. Rev. Makino holds a certificate of pastoral care and has volunteered as a counselor and chaplain with numerous organizations in Hawaii. He is married to the former Sumie Tamekuni and has two daughters and two grandchildren.



GOJI

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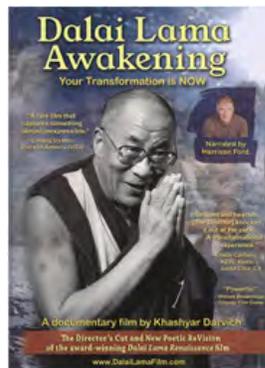
DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication. Mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813), fax (536-0919), or e-mail (hibetsuin@hawaii.rr.com) all items to the **GOJI**. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

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The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.



Dalai Lama Awakening at BSC on Saturday, February 4, 2017

Hawaii Betsuin is pleased to host a screening of *Dalai Lama Awakening* at the Buddhist Study Center near UH Manoa, **Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 4 p.m.** The film is feature length. Refreshments and discussion follow until 7 p.m.

Narrated by actor Harrison Ford, *Dalai Lama Awakening* presents the profound and life-changing journey of innovative Western thinkers who travel to India to meet with the Dalai Lama to solve many of the world's problems.

There is comedy and tension alike as egos emerge leading up to a session with the Dalai Lama. Join vicariously with the participants on their transformational journey and then talk about it with your fellow filmgoers.

Tickets are \$10 and are available in the Hawaii Betsuin office, the Buddhist Study Center, and online at <http://hawaiibetsuin.org/event/dalai-lama-film/>. Ticket proceeds are shared with the filmmaker.

New Year's Greetings from the Kyodan

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Namo Amida Butsu & Happy New Year!

In this New Year, please let me express my warmest Aloha and Best Wishes to you for a harmonious, peaceful and reflective New Year filled with the Joy of the Dharma!

As we reflect (including self-reflect) on what is happening around the world including our own nation, there is room for dire concern as aggression, violence, hate, inequality, disrespect, suspicion and mistrust erupt. At times, it may seem all too overwhelming. However, let us not lose hope. May we avail ourselves to the Wisdom of Enlightenment by letting it guide us and may Buddha's Compassion inspire us. Our Jodo Shinshu Teachings share that the Bodhisattva Dharmakara/Amida Buddha gives hope to the spiritually lost foolish being/bonbu by promising the attainment of Enlightenment through the Buddha's Unconditional Compassion by saying "Entrust yourself to me calling my Name, Namo Amida Butsu." Out of the Joy and Gratitude of True Entrusting for being unconditionally accepted without judgement emerges a deep lament about this imperfect I and an aspiration to live a more Dharma-centered life. In one of his Letters, Shinran Shonin states, "There was a time when for each of you when you knew nothing of Amida's Vow and did not say the Name of Amida Buddha, but now, guided by the compassionate means of Sakyamuni and Amida, you have begun to hear the Vow. Formerly you were drunk with the wine of ignorance and had a liking only for the three poisons of greed, anger, and folly, but since you have begun to hear the Buddha's Vow you have gradually rejected the three poisons, and come to prefer at all times the medicine of Amida Buddha." (Lamp for the Latter Ages, Letter 20) Further, says the late Rev. Jitsuen Kakehashi, "The 'turning of the heart' means forsaking the human-centered way of thinking and placing the teaching of the Tathagata at the center of our thought. Being saved means that with the Dharma-centered values, a new view of life is established in ourselves." "In our daily life, we are liable to be dictated to by our self-centered thoughts, but in the mind of nembutsu practitioners who are saddened and pained by this reality, there is a recurring transformation in which, with the heart and mind of the Tathagata's great wisdom and great compassion, we come to look back at our own thoughts and behaviors. When we look at the world with an ordinary human mind, it is distinctly divided into things we love and things we hate, but with the mind of the Tathagata, we are made to know that everyone is equally the Tathagata's indispensably important child. From that standpoint, we realize that we are all brothers and sisters and fellow human beings. Then slowly but steadily, we come to reflect on our self-centered thoughts, reject our blind passions and make efforts to see things and live our lives in a way that can be approved by the Tathagata." (From "*Hearing the Buddha's Call, The Life, Works and Words of Shinran*").

In this New Year, may the manifestations of True Entrusting such as "the benefit of having great joy in our hearts, the benefit of being aware of Amida's benevolence and of responding in gratitude to his virtue, and the benefit of constantly practicing great compassion" become more evident in our daily lives. As Jodo Shin Buddhists, let us respond to Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion by reciting the Nembutsu and encourage each other to live a life centered on the Dharma including sharing our Awareness, Joy and Gratitude of the Buddha's Great Wisdom and Compassion with others. Truly as Shinran Shonin said, "May there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha's Teaching spread!" Once again, Happy New Year to one and all! Namo Amida Butsu/ Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion

In Gassho / Anjali,
Bishop Eric Matsumoto,
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Pieper Toyama,
President



Our theme for 2017 calls upon us to take action to implement our plans for our temples while ensuring open communication to engage all those connected to our temples. Our temples' success in serving its members requires us to spend the time and planning necessary to make open communications happen efficiently and effectively. For every event we plan, for every opportunity for involvement we offer our members, let us consider doing the following: (1) Make clear announcements at our temple services. (2) Make attractive posters for our temple bulletin boards. (3) Print handouts for our members to take home and post on their refrigerators and share with friends and relatives. (4) Post announcements on our temples' websites, newsletters, and Facebook pages. (5) Use a telephone tree or make personal phone calls to senior citizens to get the word out. Use text messages, twitter, and Instagram for the XYZ generations. (6) Ask all of our temple affiliates to announce it to their members. (7) Do email blasts. (8) Do snail mail blasts with post cards and handwritten notes. (9) Post it on banners outside of our temples. (10) Put out public service announcements on TV stations, radio stations, and publications. (11) Submit news releases to print publications, radio and TV stations. (12) Talk it up among temple members during the coffee-hour talk-story following Sunday Services.

In addition to paying attention to how we communicate, we also need to pay attention to what we communicate. Our temple members should not only know about upcoming events but also about how our temples are doing financially. There should be full transparency of temple operations. Members should know the issues that deal with personnel, facilities, finances, fundraising, temple programs,

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New Year's Greetings from the Betsuin Ministers and Staff!

Rimban Toyokazu Hagio and Mrs. Junko Hagio

We wish all of you a happy New Year! In September of this year, the 25th Eminence Kojun Ohtani will visit Hawaii Betsuin. There will be a Betsuin building 100-year commemoration kick-off service. The theme will be "Fureai (Rapport)." Through these auspicious events, we'd like to share and express our gratitude for Amida's great Compassion. In Gassho

Rev. Yuika Hasebe Happy New Year!

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your kind support and help during the past year 2016. There were a lot of good days and bad days in 2016, but I think all of the days were precious and should be appreciated. We don't know what awaits us in the year 2017, but let us treasure each day and live fully under the light of Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Let us walk together sharing Aloha and Mahalo every day with Buddha's wisdom and compassion. Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann and Mrs. Judith Kaufmann

To fellow Sangha members and friends of the temple: On behalf of my wife and myself, I would like to offer our sincere thanks for your continuing support of the Buddha Dharma and this temple. As members of the Sangha we are a vital part of the Three Treasures of the Truth, the Buddha, Dharma and the Sangha, which all work to bring us to the Buddha's Pureland. We wish you and yours, a very Happy, Prosperous, and Peaceful New Year. Namoamidabutsu

Rev. Joshin Kamuro, Mrs. Minako Kamuro, and Yuma

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the kind support we received throughout 2016, and extend to all of you our New Year greetings. Living a life of Nembutsu is the way we say "(Arigato) Thank you" and "(Okagesama) Thanks to you and countless people." Let us rejoice together in the life of Nembutsu this year, too. Namo Amida Butsu.

Jerry Tamamoto, President



Aloha and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year! As we begin 2017, let us reflect on all we have learned in the past year and commit to making this year even better.

2017 will mark the kickoff leading to the 100th anniversary of the 1918 completion of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin's main building and hondo. To help in the celebration of our upcoming centennial, the temple's events committee in conjunction with a special centennial event task force is busy planning various events throughout 2017 and 2018. Information regarding each event will be distributed through service announcements, the Goji newsletter, and through our Hawaii Betsuin website. We are very excited about all the events being planned and hope that you will be able to join us in the celebration. Please continue to check the temple website (hawaiihetsuin.org) for many upcoming events which will culminate in this centennial celebration of the Hawaii Betsuin Temple Hondo in 2018.

The temple will also be establishing a special "Kensho Fund" in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Hawaii Betsuin's main building and hondo. This fund will be used for both the upkeep of the temple facilities and to help fund future renovations.

Thank you for your continuing support of our temple, a gift handed down to all of us to enjoy and to enrich our lives through the teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Let us welcome the New Year with open hearts and open minds as we face changes and challenges. We can work together to make our Sangha strong and spread the Dharma to all. My warmest Aloha to you and your family. Namo Amida Butsu!



Betsuin BWA News and Events Fujiko Motobu

BWA Needs Your Donations For Spring Bazaar!

The Betsuin BWA members send a heartfelt mahalo to all of our members and friends who have, in past years, generously donated countless items for the Rummage Sale of the Betsuin's Spring Bazaar. Although our desire to assist the Betsuin with its fundraising is as strong as ever, because we ladies are getting a little older and are moving a little more slowly, we need to ask for more assistance with set-up, sorting, and pricing.

For the Rummage Sale, we would be most grateful for donations of items in good saleable condition, especially in the following categories:

- All Clothing for Men's, Women's, and Children
- Accessories scarves, belts, shoes, purses, jewelry, etc.
- Linens bed linens, table linens, curtains, etc.
- Housewares dishes, bowls, glassware, stove cookware, microwave
able cookware, serving containers, storage containers,
etc.
- Electronics kitchen and home appliances, phones, calculators,
etc., in working condition
- Sporting Goods golf clubs, balls, bags, fishing rods, tennis racquets,
small coolers, lanterns, etc.
- Fabric & Craft fabric yardage, yarn, beads, baskets, craft kits, etc.
- Materials

In addition, many patrons come to the Betsuin in search of Asian items, either in the Rummage Sale Treasures section or at the Bontique in June so we would love to receive the following:

- Japanese clothing adult and children's kimonos, yukatas, happi coats and
accessories, etc.
- Asian art scrolls, woodblock prints, paintings, prints, etc.
- Asian collectibles dolls, display pieces, lacquerware, etc.
- Asian ceramics dishes, bowls, tea sets, etc.
- Asian objects trays, fans, coin purses, decorative knick-knacks, etc.
- Ikebana vases, containers, kenzans (frogs), clippers

Again, we wish to thank you for your wonderful support for so many years! You have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Rummage Sale and Bontique sales!

Please bring your donations to the Betsuin Office as soon as possible. Your support is appreciated!

You're Invited!
Betsuin's 2017

New Year's Party
Sun., Jan. 29th
11 am to 2 pm
in the social hall

Adults: \$12
Seniors (65+): \$10
Children (5+): \$7



Info and tickets in
the business office

President's Message continued from page 3

and strategic plans for the future. By making our temple operations transparent to our members, we open pathways for their input and involvement.

Most importantly, we must join temple ministers in sharing the Dharma. Sharing should not be limited to Dharma Talks during Sunday Services, memorial services, workshops, seminars and newsletter messages. We can begin by seeking meaningful Dharma messages in our personal readings and experiences and find ways to share them so we may enrich the lives of our temple members. We can begin by considering the 12 ways of communication I listed above as means for members and ministers to openly share the Dharma every day.

Open communications in 2017 means that each of us is a receiver and a sender. When our messages connect, they will spark action. Let us each do our part.

Namo Amida Butsu
Pieper J. Toyama, President
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Betsuin Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

November 11 - Wahiawa Veterans' Day Parade

Wahiawa Hongwanji invited the Honolulu Dharma Schools to participate in the parade, then return to the temple for food and fellowship. Participants from the Betsuin were Roy and Allison Yonamine with their daughters Emma and Amy, Albert and Liane Wong, and Alan Kubota. Bishop Eric Matsumoto and his son Caden, Reverend Kamuro, his wife, Minako and son, Yuma, and Reverend Arthur Kaufmann also participated. Wahiawa Hongwanji was so welcoming and happy that they participated. Wahiawa has indicated that they want to make this event an annual one....please mark your calendars for November 11, 2017 to participate.



November 27 - Dharma Message by SYRAP Class

The SYRAP Class presented a puppet show based on the story, The Lion and the Jackal. The story was narrated by Royce Shioi, and puppet show was put on by Byron and Vincent Saito, Emma Yonamine and Caden Matsumoto. The moral of the story is that sometimes it is easy to let fear cloud our judgment. A wise person knows that there is enough love in their heart to give to every living creature in the world.

Honolulu City Lights Wreath

The Betsuin Dharma School entered a wreath in this contest. The description of the wreath is as follows: Buddha reached enlightenment by sitting under a Bodhi Tree. Our wreath depicts the Buddha sitting under a Bodhi Tree, thinking about peace and harmony in the world. Our Dharma School students and parents shared their thoughts on what peace and harmony means to them by writing on Bodhi leaves. This significant event of Buddha's enlightenment is observed during the month of December, and we are delighted to share this simplistic, yet very meaningful creation of his enlightenment with all. We hope you were able to see the wreath at the Honolulu Hale display.



Betsuin Dharma School Taiko Group

2 performances were held during the past few months:
Moiliili Hongwanji Open House on October 8
Ala Moana Centerstage on November 20

Upcoming Events:

February 26, 2017 - Group Outing to Mouna Farms
(Sooriya Kumar-Living Treasure)
May 7, 2017 - Proposed Activity at HMS - Sports Day / Undokai



Thank you! Mahalo! Arigato!

I want to personally thank all our Temple members, families and friends who helped make the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin 4th Annual Blood Drive a success! I would like to thank all those who donated their lifesaving blood, delicious food and precious time on a busy Saturday to help. We maintained our reputation for the friendliest drive with the best food! Otsukaresama deshita!

Our drive collected 69 pints of blood, including 29 units of type O. We also



registered 23 new donors, among them many of our students from the Pacific Buddhist Academy! We were able to help over 205 lives at a time when blood supplies were running low across the state.

Our next drive has already been scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 7 am until 3:00 pm at the Betsuin Main Social Hall. We will have additional early morning appointments next year and can set you up with time today! If you are a regular donor, the

computer system will assure your regular appointments do not conflict with your ability to participate with our annual drive next year. Hooray for technology! The Blood Bank will also call you with a reminder as we get closer to the drive date.

Please contact the Betsuin office at 536-7044 for information to make your appointment for the November 2017 blood drive!

Upcoming Events...You're Invited!

Bring Your Family And Friends To Hoonko Bingo Night!

Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin invites you to the Hoonko Special Bingo Night!

The Hoonko service will start at 7:00 PM on January 14 in the main temple. The Bingo Night will start right after the service in the social Hall. Please bring a Bingo prize (\$5 or less). Light refreshments will be served!

Aloha Oe, Reverend Tomioka!

Please join us on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at the Betsuin's New Year's Party when we bid a fond aloha and mahalo to Rev. Satoshi Tomioka who is being assigned to the Big Island. He will be the resident minister for the Puna Hongwanji, Naalehu Hongwanji, and Pahala Hongwanji. His transfer is effective as of February 16th, 2017.

After arriving in Honolulu in 2012, Rev. Tomioka completed orientation at Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters and was subsequently assigned to Hawaii Betsuin. The Betsuin Sangha would like to express our deepest appreciation for his tireless efforts to share the Dharma with us, and with the community, during his time at the Hawaii Betsuin.

Thank you very much, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, for your devoted work, your sense of humor and your dedication to the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha!

**Hongwanji
Radio Programs
JANUARY 2017
KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 07 Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani &
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
14 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
21 Rev. Shinkai Murakami
28 Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani

**Betsuin Services
Asaji Service
8:00 AM**

- 01 No Asaji service
08 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
15 Ho'onko Service
Rev. Shigenori Makino
22 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
29 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 01 New Year's Day Service
English: Bishop Eric Matsumoto;
Japanese: Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
08 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
15 Ho'onko Combined Family Ser.
9:30 am/Rev. Shigenori Makino
22 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
29 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

**Nicchu Service
1:00 PM**

- 01 No Nicchu service
08 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
15 Ho'onko Ser. Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
22 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
29 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

**Dharma School
9:00 AM**

- 01 No DS service-10:00 am service only
08 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
15 Ho'onko Combined Family Service
9:30 am - Rev. Shigenori Makino
22 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
29 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

In Memoriam



NOVEMBER 2016

The Hawai'i Betsuin extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 KITO, Eiko (80) | 18 HIRATA, Henry Akira (82) |
| 3 YAMADA, Takeji (86) | 18 TAKAHASHI, Tsugiko (86) |
| 7 TANOUYE, Chiyeko (92) | 19 UYEDA, Stanley Tamotsu (89) |
| 8 MASHIBA, Roy Manabu (77) | 20 KARIMOTO, Mickey Masaru (83) |
| 9 KITANOSONO, Keiichi (25) | 22 EGI, Jane Michiko (85) |
| 10 HAYAMA, Toshio (94) | 22 KITSU, Cynthia Emiko (64) |
| 10 KAWAMOTO, Edward Kiyoshi (96) | 23 MATSUMOTO, Yoshie (78) |
| 11 KITAGAWA, Fusako (74) | 27 WATASAKI, Helen Michie (94) |
| 11 YUKITOMO, Masako (94) | 30 MATSUMOTO, Edward Yoshiharu (84) |
| 12 MATSUZAKI, Thomas Mitsuaki (88) | 30 OSHIRO, Raymond Yeisho (91) |
| 13 WEBER, Lori Ann Yukie (41) | |

2017 Memorial Service Schedule

2017 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2016 - 1 year	2005 - 13 year	1985 - 33 year
2015 - 3 year	2001 - 17 year	1968 - 50 year
2011 - 7 year	1993 - 25 year	1918 - 100 year

Nursing Home Services

- 05 Hale Nani - Rev. Tomioka
Hale Ho Aloha - Rev. Kamuro
12 Maluhia - Rev. Kaufmann
Liliha - Rev. Hasebe
13 Kuakini - Rev. Hagio
26 Nuuanu Hale - Rev. Tomioka
27 Leahi - Rev. Hasebe



The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of un-hindered light. This practice, comprehensively encompassing all practices, is perfect and most rapid in bringing them to fullness. For this reason, it is called "great practice." Saying the Name then breaks through all the ignorance of sentient beings and readily brings all their aspirations to fulfillment. Saying the Name is in itself mindfulness; mindfulness is nembutsu; nembutsu is Namo-amida-butсу.

-Shinran Shonin