



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

Vol. 72, No. 02
FEBRUARY 2017



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

Have You Ever Heard Of Nirvana Day?

Have you ever heard of Nirvana Day? It is also known as Nehan-E in Japanese. The Sanskrit word “Nirvana” means “to blow out” or “extinguish.” Nirvana Day is the day Shakyamuni Buddha entered the true realm of liberation. Even though Shakyamuni Buddha was liberated, he still had human form. However, on the day of Nirvana, he was free from all bondages and reached true enlightenment.

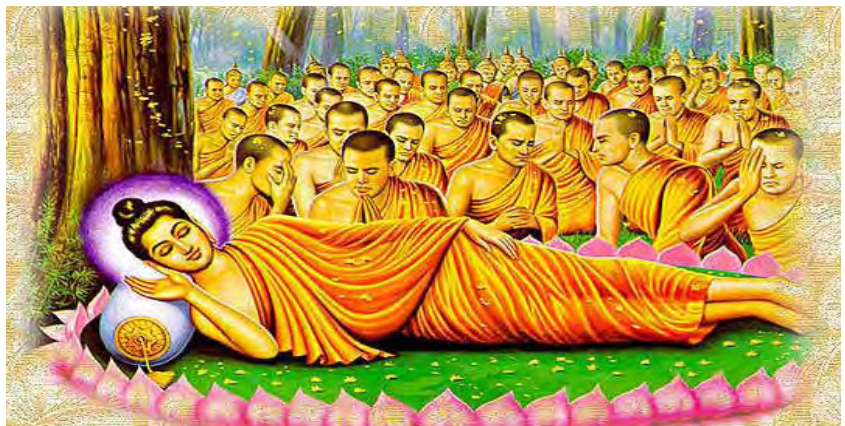
Many of us know that Shakyamuni Buddha was born a prince. He had a life of luxury as a prince, but he left the castle to seek the truth. Through many years of severe practice, the prince reached enlightenment and became Shakyamuni Buddha, the Awakened One. But what was the closing part of his life like? The following sentences are quoted from *Jodo Shinshu A Guide* published by Hongwanji.

“Even at the advanced age of eighty, Shakyamuni Buddha tirelessly continued to spread the dharma. His final journey was from Rajagrhā to Sravasti. The journey was ended before he reached his destination, at a place called Vaisali. At this point, even the great spiritual leader was unable to escape the truth of the impermanence of life, for he had fallen fatally ill.”

Shakyamuni Buddha asked Ananda, his disciple, to help him lay down. Ananda prepared a bed for him, and Buddha slowly lay down; facing west, his head was in the north direction, and his right arm hung down.

“Lying down between twin Sala trees, he gave his final dharma talk, ending with this admonishment, ‘After I leave this world, make the Dharma your place of refuge. Make of yourself a light...all things in this world are impermanent. Follow the Dharma diligently.’ Those were his last words.”

Shakyamuni Buddha passed away under the sala tree at the age of 80. Until the last moment of his life, he never stopped spreading the Dharma. The words he left, even 2500 years later, still vividly explain the truth of all life and all human nature to us. In this month of February, let us think again what Buddha leaves for us.



Dharma Message: “Reflection about Nirvana Day”

Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you well and hope you are having a wonderful 2017. How is your 2017 so far? Year 2016 was a bit sad for me because I lost my uncle and grandmother. When I think back to the beginning of 2016, I never thought I would lose two of my beloved family members in one year. I knew that day would come some time soon, but it really made me sad to be separated from those people.

Nirvana Day is the day Shakyamuni Buddha passed away. When Shakyamuni Buddha was sick and in his death bed, his disciple Ananda was crying beside him. Shakyamuni Buddha said to Ananda “Don’t cry, Ananda. I always explained to you that we all have to

be separated from our loved ones, eventually.” It is said that Ananda was not enlightened yet at that time, so the sadness to lose his great master was indescribably painful for him. Even for a great monk such as Ananda, to be separated from a loved one was unbearably hard.

Shakyamuni Buddha explained to Ananda about the pain of separation. That was, of course, Shakyamuni Buddha’s realization of the truth of human life... but at the same time, I think it can be considered as preparation for death and dying for us. The day will come without fail. The day we will be separated from our loved ones will come some day. It may be your family member’s death or a friend’s or it can be ours. It can come soon or some time in the distant future. The truth Shakyamuni Buddha explained applies to all of us.

The longer we live, the more we will encounter the death or separation from our loved ones. When I reflect on those beloved people who passed away before me, I feel the many sweet moments and the sad ones. When I think about the death which I will encounter in the future, it brings me fear.

Shinran Shonin said in the book *Tannisho* “No matter how reluctant we may be, when our life in this world comes to an end, beyond our control, then for the first time we go to the land of Fulfillment. Those who do not want to go immediately are the special concern of true compassion.” (quote from *Tannisho A Shin Buddhist Classic* by Dr. Taitetsu Unno)

People who passed away before us, people who will pass away before us, were and will always be embraced by Amida Buddha’s Compassion. When our time comes, we, too, will be embraced by Great Compassion.

No matter how or when, young or old, peacefully or painfully, Amida Buddha promises to save us and calls us from eons ago. No matter how much

we prepare, or expect, it will be painful most of the time. But like Shinran Shonin said, Amida Buddha has already known our sadness and pain. That pain and sadness are and will be embraced by the Compassion. So, embraced by Amida Buddha’s Compassion and Wisdom, let us together walk the path of Appreciation. *Namu Amida Butsu.*



YESS Camp 34: “YESS-topia”

YESS Camp 34, sponsored by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, will be held on April 14-16, 2017 at Camp Kokokahi on Oahu, Hawaii. (YESS stands for Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers.) This year’s theme is YESS-topia and features Buddhist themes presented in the Disney movie *Zootopia*. The guest speaker will be Rev. Satoshi Tomioka.

YESS Camp is open to those 13 to 23 years old who are interested in learning more about, or growing deeper in, Buddhism. Rev. Tomioka will give several talks in which the campers will be asked to reflect on their daily lives. Over the course of three days, the campers will interact with other young Buddhists from around the state and have the chance to form long-lasting friendships.

To register, pick up a form from the offices of Hawaii Betsuin, HHMH Headquarters, or the Buddhist Study Center or download one at <http://yesscamp.wixsite.com/yesscamp>.



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044. There is no newsletter published for the month of August.

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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Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, Japanese section editor; Production: Stacy Bradshaw, Alice Omura, Alice Tando, Kimiyo Miyose; Circulation: Stacy Bradshaw; Contributing reporters from Hongwanji Mission School, Buddhist Women’s Association, Dharma School & Parents, Project Dana, Wednesday Gang and Gals, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pacific Buddhist Academy, and the Kyodan*

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

Betsuin BWA News and Events

Letter to BWA Members And Friends From Wendie Yumori, President



Warm Aloha, BWA members and friends,

I am Wendie Yumori, Hawaii Betsuin BWA President for 2017-2018. I wholeheartedly agree with Rev. Satoshi Tomioka's statement when he said that you "BWA ladies are Beautiful, Wonderful, and Amazing!" It's because of you that being in the BWA is such a richly rewarding experience!

Here is a little background about myself. I was born in Los Angeles in 1948, a few years after my parents were released from internment camp. I am grateful for the warm home life my parents provided for my brother, sister, and me, the work ethic they instilled in us, and the love of books

and music they passed on to us. All through my growing-up years, music was a tremendous source of joy. After I graduated from UCLA in 1970 with a BA in History, I met my husband, Roy, and we were married in 1972. He was in graduate school in Ocean Engineering at UH so I was able to leave smoggy L.A. for rainbow-land Hawaii! I eventually received a Master's in Counseling and Guidance and a PhD in Educational Psychology at UH. Our son, Forrest, was born in 1980. In 1983, I started my nine years with Kamehameha Schools, working in the early education division in programs and evaluation.

In 1992, our family left Hawaii as Roy's job at the Naval Ocean Systems

Center (NOSC) in Kaneohe was transferred to San Diego NOSC. I found a new job as a guidance counselor and loved engaging with students and teachers. When Roy and I retired in 2006, we returned to Hawaii and to our house in Kaneohe which we had rented out for 14 years.

We became members of Hawaii Betsuin in 2007. I joined the Betsuin Choir and the BWA, and, of course, the rest is history. During the past 10 years, our family has expanded to include Forrest's lovely wife, Jasmine, and three beautiful granddaughters! These 10 years have certainly been happy years and I hope to have many more happy years with all of you!

Please join our week day Morning Service!
Hawaii Betsuin opens its door to everybody who would like to chant sutra.

Date: Monday - Saturday
Time: 8:00 to 8:30 AM
Sutra: Shoshinge

Shoshinge was written by our founder, Shinran Shonin to encapsulate the teachings of Jodo Shinshu. It is an important sutra for Jodo Shinshu followers and encourages all to entrust themselves in Amida Buddha. You are invited to join the Hawaii Betsuin ministers every morning from 8 to 8:30 AM to chant Shoshinge, the Gatha of True Faith.

Please feel free to join any time.

No reservation is needed. Walk-ins are welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact the Betsuin Office.

HONPA HONGWANJI

**Hawaii Betsuin
Taste of Hongwanji
Bazaar**

 **Sunday
March 26, 2017**

Rummage Sale
Kukui Brand Sausages Ono-Food
Sushi Fresh Produce
Baked Goods

Hongwanji Cook Books!
**1727 Pali Hwy.
Honolulu 96817**

From The Executive Director

Stacy Bradshaw



Okagesama de: Appreciation to our Ancestors

Happy Belated New Year! I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. It is truly amazing that we are already in the second month of the year. I always look to the New Year as a chance to reflect, refresh, and rededicate myself, not only to my work, but also to my family, friends, and faith. With the upcoming 100th Anniversary for our temple building coming up in 2018, I cannot help but think about the generations of temple members who dedicated themselves to their faith and who made countless contributions and sacrifices in order to build such a magnificent structure, a building that would benefit future generations by providing a home to learn about the Buddha Dharma and also to serve as a pillar in the Nuuanu community. The physical and financial commitment made by our ancestors in

order to realize our present Hawaii Betsuin is inspirational. In order to maintain our temple and programs, we carried out our 2016 Annual Giving Drive at the end of last year. The temple received \$43,473.00 for the Annual Giving Drive, both from the Give Aloha Campaign with Foodland and Western Union and those who donated directly to the temple. With a humble heart, I would like to extend the temple's sincerest mahalo for all the contributions given at that time as well as throughout the year. Knowing that there are non-profit organizations asking for donations more than ever, we truly appreciate all who gave. I look at each dollar collected as a token of appreciation to our ancestors to whom we say Okagesama de: It is because of you that we have a wonderful

temple to share the Buddha Dharma and to continue to meet weekly in fellowship.

As mentioned, the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the completion of our temple building in 2018. The Hawaii Betsuin events committee is busy at work planning a number of centennial events leading up to the actual 100th Anniversary. We hope that you will participate in the events and help us celebrate this momentous occasion. We also humbly ask for your continued support and contributions, so that we may continue to maintain our beautiful temple building for another 100 years. Namo Amida Butsu.



Aloha Oe From Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

My Dear Friends
and Betsuin
Ohana,

It has been about 3 years and 5 months since I was assigned to Hawaii Betsuin. Now, I'm leaving on a jet plane and don't know when I'll be back again. Hawaii Betsuin was my first temple assignment, and I have had many experiences that developed my skills as a minister. I met many temple members, friends, and people here. Every single person, every single memory, and every single experience helped me to shape my life like threads

woven together to make a tapestry. The threads were my experiences, love, laughter, compassion, and a little bit of anger, sadness, and pain. The tapestry is myself, Satoshi Tomioka. I don't know the size, design, pattern, colors of my tapestry, but I hope those persons who touched and saw my tapestry through our encounters found something meaningful and realized a sense of truth about our human nature and that it will resonate in their lives. My tapestry would have not been woven without dearest - you. I imagine there might be some friends who may feel sad on my leaving Betsuin, but I'll gratefully take my tapes-

try woven here with you and continue to grow. The tapestry will change as I live my life with new people and new places, and I hope there will be people who will enjoy touching and seeing my new tapestry. It was my honor and pleasure to serve you and share the joy of being embraced by Amida Buddha's Compassion and Wisdom. As Lady Noriko Ohtani wrote, "Ah, in the light of Amida Buddha, you are living a beautiful life and I am living a beautiful life. Embraced by Amida Buddha's Wish, now you are here and I am here. Together, we are embraced." Aloha, until we meet again.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 49 Good Times at YESS Camp

Royce Shioi, Troop 49 Boy Scout

YESS camp is a camp where Junior YBA groups from all the different islands come together for a weekend. YESS camp is a good opportunity for one to learn more about Buddhism and to meet people with the same interest as you even if you are not in Junior YBA. This camp helps you relate deeper to Shin-Buddhism and learn more about how other people follow Buddhism from all the other temples.

At YESS camp you get to meet people from the different islands and the people are super nice and always welcome

new people. In the beginning, everyone introduces themselves and shares some facts that will help you to get to know people's names and interests and for other people to get to know you. After the first night of camping there are temple services in the morning and afternoon as well as Dharma lessons to help you relate and understand Buddhism better. There is usually a guest speaker that does an interesting activity that relates to Buddhism.

Then before you realize it, you are

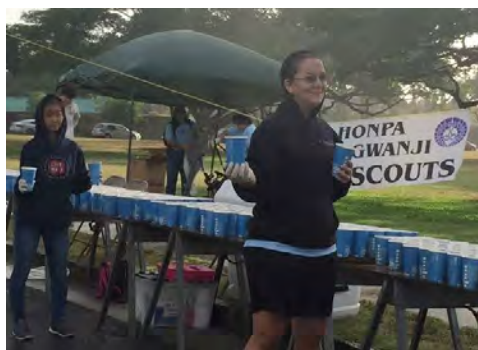
saying good bye to the good friends you made as they leave to go home. By the end of camp, you gain valuable lessons and lifelong friendships. At the end of the 2016 YESS camp I learned more about myself and how I can apply Buddhism in my daily life. I also met new people from the outer islands older and younger than I am. At camp I learned more about the ministers, what they like to do and how life is as a minister. YESS camp is really fun but also relaxing. It is easy to be around really nice people and being able to share your thoughts about Buddhism.



BETSUIN GIRL SCOUTS

Turkey Trot 2016

Alexandrianna Harman,
Senior Girl Scout Troop 415



The Girl Scouts had the honor of supporting The Honolulu Marathon Clinic in its 41st Annual Turkey Trot. This was a 10-mile run scheduled on Thanksgiving Day where the Scouts manned the three

water stations along the run, Kapiolani Bandstand, Triangle Park and Aloha Gas. Alex Harman led the Scouts by attending planning meetings and getting the person-power to run the stations. She also had help from her sister scouts, Fayth Kawamura, Cadette Scout, Troop 383, who led the volunteers at Aloha Gas station and Jessica Tom, Senior scout, Troop 415, who managed the Kapiolani Park station. There was a total of at least 25 volunteers who met at their respective stations at 6:00 am. The cold and wet weather did not hinder our scouts and adult volunteers from making sure they supported all of the runners with ice cold water and happy smiles. Cheering the runners on and working with the other scouts and leaders as well as the Turkey Trot organizers were fun and we all created great fellowship.

As an added perk, Leonard of Leonard's Bakery treated all the Turkey Trot runners and volunteers to delicious hot malasadas! Until Next Year! Happy Holidays!

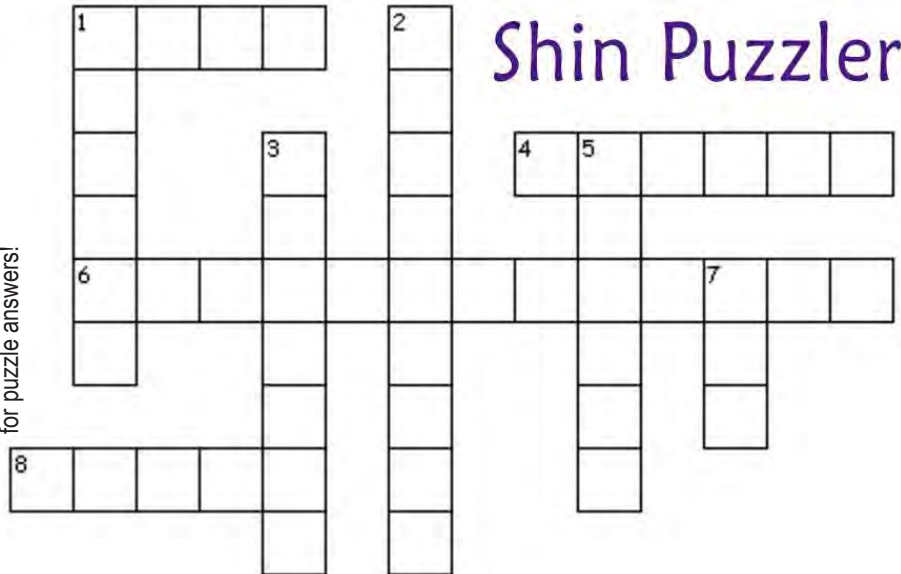
Holiday Christmas Party

Cindy Matsushita, Brownie Leader, Troop 257

Over 160 Girl Scouts and their friends and family gathered in their bedtime best on December 3, 2016 to celebrate the holiday season at the "Waiting Up All Night for Santa" party, hosted by the Brownie troop. Kids and adults enjoyed crafts, sweet treats, games, dinner, and a surprise visit from Santa! In the holiday spirit of giving, the Scouts also held canned food and toy drives to benefit the Family Promise program. Mahalo to the Betsuin for providing the party venue, Rev. Kaufmann for the blessing, and Jerry Tamamoto and Stacy Bradshaw, who attended as Betsuin representatives.



Answers go to <http://hawaiibetsuin.org/puzzler/>
for puzzle answers!



Across

- Members receive it once a month except August
- Second of the three treasures
- Event that made Siddhartha the Buddha (hint: under the Bodhi Tree)
- Buddha of immeasurable light and life

Down

- Countless as grains of sand in the _____ River
- Another word for Dharma
- Hoonko is the memorial service for this profound teacher
- Word for Jodo Shinshu world headquarters in Kyoto
- Our self-centered nature

Puzzle by David Atcheson with help from Discovery Education

If you are unable
to come
to the temple
and would like to
have a minister visit
you in your home,
please call

**Rev. Yuika Hasebe
at 536-7044**



and request
a home visit.
We miss you
and do not
want to lose
contact with you!



Communications Updates

Hawaii Betsuin Now Has a Facebook Page!

The 2017 Honpa Hongwanji theme and slogan is "Embrace Change: Action – Open Communications." So it is fitting that on the eve of 2017, Betsuin launched a Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, please visit [facebook.com/hawaiibetsuin/](https://www.facebook.com/hawaiibetsuin/) and click the Like button. The new page will help us share news, events, and dharma with a wider audience.

Email Subscriptions: Betsuin Bulletin & e-Goji

Did you know you can sign up for a short, weekly email about the upcoming Sunday services and selected other events? It's called the Betsuin Bulletin and is sent from the Betsuin office each Friday. It's a great way to be reminded of special service times, see who's speaking, and more. To sign up, visit hawaiibetsuin.org/email-signup. There's also a Sign Up button on our Facebook page.



Members also have the option to receive the Goji by email, either instead of or in addition to the paper Goji. To sign up for the e-Goji, call the office at 536-7044 or visit hawaiibetsuin.org/e-goji.

- David Atcheson, Communications Committee Convener

"Recognition of the
inherent dignity and
of the equal and
inalienable rights
of all members
of the human family
is the foundation
of freedom, justice
and peace
in the world."

PREAMBLE,
UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Green Hongwanji in 2017



The Hawaii Betsuin Green Team met on Sunday, January 8 to discuss plans for 2017. There were three main items on the agenda:

1) BYO-CUPS. This is the program we launched in July 2016 to encourage sangha members to bring their own reusable cups, utensils, and snack plates to reduce waste. We noted fairly good participation, especially for cups, and discussed ways to refresh and expand this program for

2017. Please consider a next step you can take to support this effort.

2) Earth Day Weekend Service & Fair on April 23. Reverend Don Castro, recently retired from Seattle Betsuin, will be guest speaker at our Earth Day themed service on Sunday, April 23. (Earth Day itself is April 22.) Reverend Castro has had a 40-year career with Buddhist Churches of America and has been a strong advocate for EcoSangha, similar to Hawaii's Green Hongwanji Ini-


tiative. After the service, we will have a mini Green Fair in the Social Hall with several activities and educational displays by affiliated groups. The Green Team invites your ideas and participation as we organize these Earth Day events.

3) Green Hongwanji Survey. The HHMH Green Hongwanji Committee has developed a survey to help temples evaluate their current environmental practices and encourage next steps. The survey covers areas like energy, cleaning products, waste, food, and education. We plan to share the findings for Betsuin on Earth Day weekend and use them as a guide for Green Team projects.

We agreed we should not assume that all share the same understanding of reasons to go green, be they scientific or inspired by the dharma. We will find ways to help the sangha consider the whys of Green Hongwanji. "Watch this space," as they say!


- David Atcheson,
greenteaminfo@hawaiibetsuin.org


*The Wisteria Ballroom Dancing Club
Invites You to Dance!*



Monday Nights
7 to 9 PM
in the Social Hall

Dances change every 8 weeks.





For Information, please contact
Claire Groom (286-3486)
or Mary Fujitani (595-4533)

Please Kokua!

The Bazaar is coming up and we need your donations. Please drop them off at the Betsuin Office as soon as possible!

Mahalo for your support!

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

- 04 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
- 11 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 18 Rev. Kazunori Takahashi
- 25 Rev. Mariko Nishiyama

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

- 05 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
- 12 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
- 19 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 26 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 05 9:30 am COMBINED SERVICE
Scout Sunday
- 12 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
- 19 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
- 26 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

**Nicchu Service
1:00 PM**

- 05 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
- 12 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
- 19 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 26 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

**Dharma School
9:00 AM**

- 05 9:30 AM COMBINED SERVICE
Scout Sunday
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
- 12 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 19 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
- 26 NO SERVICE DUE TO
DHARMA SCHOOL OUTING

In Memoriam  **DECEMBER 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. Namu Amida Butsu

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 12/20/2016 HIRAZUMI, Jean Y (85) | 15 KIDANI, Florence Shimabukuro (91) |
| 8/19/2016 HIRATA, Amy (94) | 15 UETAKE, Midori I. (93) |
| 03 TAKAHASHI, Emiko (89) | 16 HIROSHIGE, Gladys Masae (95) |
| 04 OKUMA, Ryotoku (93) | 17 MATSUMURA, Dean Yasuo (72) |
| 09 HORIKAMI, James Seio (86) | 20 OZAMA, Florence Akemi (82) |
| 09 NAKAMURA, Matsuye (92) | 24 FUJITA, Yasuhiro (95) |
| 10 NAKANISHI, Tetsuo Wallace (93) | 25 NISHIMOTO, Paul Tsuyoshi (84) |
| 10 WATANABE, Jean Nobuko (85) | 27 MATSUI, Edna Takako (99) |
| 11 KOYADA, Yoshio (87) | 29 HONDA, Horace Hiroshi (75) |
| 12 NAKASONE, Stanley Kiyoshi (79) | 29 MABUNI, Rosie Midori (84) |
| | 30 NISHIOKA, Barbara Hisae (93) |

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

02	Hale Nani – Rev. Hagio
	Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Kaufmann
09	Maluhia – Rev. Kamuro
	Liliha – Rev. Hasebe
10	Kuakini – Cancelled (Giseikai)
23	Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kamuro
24	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 Namu-amida-butsu.

-Shinran Shonin