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GOJI

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NEWSLETTER

of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin

www.hawaiihetsuin.org

2018 Slogan:
Embrace Change:
Harmony
(Accept Differences)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
Rev. Joshin Kamuro
Rev. Sol Kalu

Nirvana Day Is A Time Of Reflection

The month of February holds a significant event for all Buddhists who follow the teachings of Buddhism's founder, Shakyamuni Buddha. February 8th, or in some countries February 15th, is called Nirvana Day or Nehan-E in Japanese, the day of the historical Buddha's passing away. It is said that on Shakyamuni Buddha's death, he had achieved complete enlightenment, or Parinirvana, at the moment his physical body died. Having attained final enlightenment, the Buddha achieved freedom from physical existence and its sufferings.

The Buddha taught that nirvana is a state of transcendental bliss that one can attain in this life or at death. Nirvana, explained the Buddha, is moving to a another plane of existence by extinguishing the flames of desire, anger, hatred and ignorance leading to final enlightenment, or an awareness of the true nature of reality. As such, the Buddha taught that Nirvana is beyond ordinary human comprehension and can never be described by words. It has to be experienced to be fully understood. Nirvana Day is a time of reflection on the meaning of Shakyamuni Buddha's passing into final enlightenment. It is a time to think of our own lives and how we may attain peace and tranquility through understanding the causes and conditions that bring about suffering. It is a time to embrace the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha that serve as the guide to our ultimate spiritual goal of Buddhahood.

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 is 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 Rajagrha 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."

continued on page 3



Dharma Message: “A Children’s Song”

There is a saying “As the boy, so was the man. The child is father of the man.” Things one learned and memorized during childhood are not easily forgotten. Therefore, when we visit care homes, such as Hale Nani, Liliha, Leahi, etc. and I sing a children’s song, which the residents sang in their childhood. They beat time with their hands and try to sing along. As in this case, a children’s song brings warm feelings of childhood memories. The most popular song is “Yuuyake Koyake.” “Yuuyake koyakede higa kurete, yamano oterano kanegannaru.” How do you feel when you hear this children’s song? Do you have an endearing longing?

Did you know that the heart longing for the Pure Land is implied in the song,

“Yuuyake Koyake,” that is, at the end of the day the whole family viewing the sunset and listening to the temple bells tolling, return to their home, the same for the birds and animals, which start for their home, which is the Pure Land.

Regarding the Visualizing of the Sun Contemplation, “All sentient beings should look at the setting sun, sitting in the proper posture, facing West. They should clearly gaze at the sun, with mind firmly fixed on it, concentrating their sight and not letting it wander from the setting sun, which is like a drum suspended above the horizon. Having done so, they should then be able to visualize it clearly.” (from Contemplation

Rev. Toyokazu Hagio



Sutra)

This means that on this earth when the sun sets as dusk gathers, although one must be tired, body and mind, there is still Light Land (Pure Land). In the Pure Land there is Amida Buddha who will accept us in the world of eternal enlightenment that we yearn for. So, we are hopeful and empowered to overcome the suffering in life.

Therefore, remembering the deep meaning, which is included in a children’s song, let us once again try to concentrate our mind on the western Pure Land.

Betsuin Joins In Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Members of the Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women’s Associations were joined by Bishop Eric Matsumoto; students, faculty, and staff of Pacific Buddhist Academy; members of the Junior Young Buddhists Association (Jr. YBA); and members of Hawaii Betsuin and other temples in the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Parade through Waikiki.

Many parade participants in the Honpa Hongwanji group presented origami cranes to children and other festival-goers along the way, producing smiles of delight. Others carried signs and banners with messages connected to peace, Buddhism, and/or quotations from Martin Luther King Jr.

A Pacific Buddhist Academy bus accompanied the group, allowing greater participation — those who preferred riding to walking were able to ride the bus and display peace cranes out the open windows.

Thanks to all who joined in person and in spirit! This is a tradition that is sure to continue. Please join us again in 2019!



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 by e-mail (execdir@hawaii.betsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (536-0919). Address submissions 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.

Betsuin BWA News and Events

The Martin Luther King parade held on Monday, January 15, in Waikiki is an annual event that the BWA ladies and their families and friends participate in. Everyone gathered at Magic Island where the walk began. Those who were unable to walk were able to ride on the PBA bus. All participants were supplied with paper cranes to distribute to the observers along the parade route through Waikiki, to Kapiolani Park. It was a two mile walk. Thank you all for participating, and see you again next year!

DANA DAY COLLECTION will begin on February 4th and end on March 4th. Our goal for 2018 is to equal that of 2017 when the Hawaii Betsuin BWA collected a little over \$4,000 which was distributed to four separate organizations. An annual gift of a thousand dollars each was given to Project Dana, Ohana Arts, Hale Kipa, and to a fourth organization. Liane Wong headed the group again this year. Due to the generosity of Hawaii Betsuin members, we were able to contribute two thousand dollars to Project Dana instead of one thousand dollars. Dana collections are made at Kailua, Jikoen, Moiliili, and Betsuin Hongwanjis through the efforts of the BWA in each unit. Detailed article will appear in a later edition of Goji.

Let's change our lifestyle if we do not want to become senile. It's better to laugh, have humor, read and be knowledgeable, be friendly and have a positive outlook in life than being a grouch, always bad mouthing others.

NOW FOR SOME HUMOR: Three mischievous old grandmas, well into their 80s were sitting on a bench. When an old grandpa walked by, one of the old grandmas yelled out saying, "We bet we can tell exactly how old you are." The old man said, "There's no way you can guess it, you old fools."

The Second one of the grandmas said, "Sure we can. Just drop your pants and

underwear and we can tell your exact age." Embarrassed just a little, but anxious to prove they couldn't do it, he dropped his drawers.

Then grandma number 3 asked him to first turn around a couple of times and to jump up and down several times.

Then they all piped up and said. "you're 76 years old." Standing with his pants down around his ankles, the old gent asked, "How in the world did you guess?" Slapping their knees and grinning from ear to ear, the three old ladies happily yelled, "We were at your birthday party yesterday."

Now, for the second story: Mariana went to see her boyfriend, Manny, who had acquired two new pitbulls. She asked him what their names were. Manny said, "dis one is Casio, and dat one is Rolex." Mariana said, "How come you wen pick dat kine names?" Manny rolled his eyes and said, "Babe, dey watch dogs, okay?"

Laughter is the best medicine. Humor is infectious. The sound of roaring laughter is far more contagious than any cough, snuffle or sneeze. When laughter is heard, it binds the people together and

Fujiko Motobu

increases happiness intimacy. Laughter also triggers healthy physical changes in the body. Humor and laughter strengthen your immune system, boost your energy, diminish pain and protect you from damaging effects of stress. Best of all this medicine, laughter, is fun, free and easy to use. So, don't hesitate and use this medicine freely.

NIRVANA DAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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, over 2500 years ago, 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.

As we each recall the life of Shakyamuni Buddha, let us also reflect on the impermanence of things in this ordinary, mundane world and attempt to face our own human mortality with calm acceptance and courage.

PERSONS WHO TEND TO BECOME SENILE

1. Self centered and stubborn person who does not listen to others.
2. Short tempered person who gets mad easily and yells.
3. Person who is a workaholic and who devotes himself to his job only and does not have any hobbies.
4. Person who has no friends and who cannot get along with other people.
5. Person who cannot trust others, and thinks that only money and material things can be trusted and depended on.
6. Person who rarely laughs.

PERSONS WHO TEND NOT TO BECOME SENILE

1. Person who habitually reads books and newspapers.
2. Person who is not bothered by forgetfulness.
3. Person who writes frequently.
4. Person who takes care of other people.
5. Person who does not forget the excitement and feeling as he watches movies or TV programs.
6. Person who constantly pursues his/her worth and meaning in life no matter how old he/she becomes.

New Year Brings New Slogan:
 2018 Hongwanji Slogan
 “Embrace Change: Harmony”
 (Accept Differences)

*excerpted from the 2018

Honpa Hongawanji Mission of Hawaii calendar

This year’s Slogan: Embrace Change: Harmony
 (Accept Differences) is part of a set of five slogans:

- 2015-Embrace Change: Awareness (Seek Opportunities)
- 2016-Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)
- 2017-Embrace Change: Action (Open Communications)
- 2018-Embrace Change: Harmony (Accept Differences)**
- 2019-Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)

These slogans are meant as guides to help us and our temple communities move forward to EMBRACE CHANGE in a continuous cycle beginning with AWARENESS, that brings to us an understanding of ourselves and the world around us, which allows us to create a NEW VISION that provides the framework for ACTION in a mindful and empathetic manner that maintains HARMONY with people and the environment, which then culminates in a TRANSFORMATION. This TRANSFORMATION is a basis for lives that are continuously full of growth and meaningful experiences that are supported by a dynamic and vibrant temple community.

Harmony with our families, temple communities, neighborhoods, and the wider world is very much needed during this time. But Harmony can only arise if we can accept ourselves as we are and other people as they are. In other words, Accept Differences realizing that everyone, including ourselves, have different ways of seeing things and different ways of doing things. Amida Buddha, in Great Compassion, fully understands this reality and therefore, accepts all without discrimination and sets the example for us to aspire to. As ordinary human beings, it is very difficult to live a life of perfect non-discrimination. However, with awareness of self and helping each other through the journey of life we can live together harmoniously guided by the light of Wisdom and Compassion.

In gassho,
Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, Director, Office of Buddhist Education,
 and the HHMH Commission on Buddhist Education

REMINDER!

English
 Services
 from the
 Betsuin are on
 KZOO radio
 (1210 am dial)



Sundays
 at
 10:00 AM

BWA
Mini
Market

FEBRUARY 18

Donations
 of crafts, plants,
 baked goods, fruits
 and veggies from
 your garden, etc.

Welcomed



Hawaii Betsuin Rings In The New Year!

On January 20th, the Installation of Officers and Annual New Year's Party was held at the Betsuin. As part of the festivities, the 2018 Asoka Award winners were announced and a silent auction raised funds for the temple. Everyone enjoyed the ono food and casino night fun!

**Congratulations to our 2018
Asoka Award winners!**

**Casino Night fun and Silent Auction and
Installation of Officers**



From the Green Team

April is Earth Month:

Green Fair on 4/15; Earth Day Service on 4/22



Last year's Green Fair was a big success, with affiliated groups hosting green-themed booths and activities in the Social Hall on the Sunday of Earth Day weekend. This year's fair will be a week earlier — on Sunday, April 15 following a combined, 9:30 a.m. service. (This allows a little more time between the Green Fair and Eshinni/Kakushinni Day, which is April 29.)

The Green Team is currently accept-

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



to request a home visit.

We miss you and do not want to lose contact with you!

ing proposals from affiliated groups for Green Fair "booths." BWA is already on board for a Mini Market. Examples from last year include eco-crafting with the Brownies, the Boy Scouts' "Un-thirsty Plant Sale," turning a t-shirt into a reusable bag with Dharma School, and planting herbs with the Cub Scouts. If your group would like to offer an activity this year, please talk to me, visit <http://bit.ly/greenbooth18>, or email greenteaminfo@hawaiibetsuin.org.

Do you have something to show or share that's not a whole activity?

Maybe an environmental science project or poster, environmental art/photography, or something that demonstrates Reduce, Reuse, Recycle? Let us know. We may have a display area for items just like that.

Earth Day Services will be on Earth Day itself, April 22, on a regular service schedule. We are pursuing possible guest speakers and hope to offer dialogue with the speaker after the 10 a.m. service.

-David Atcheson,
Green Team Convener

Bring a Friend: HHMH "Open Night" at Hawaii Betsuin Scheduled For February 15

Throughout the month of February, the seven denominations that make up the Hawaii Buddhist Council will each offer an early evening open house for the community. The Open Night for Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will be held at Hawaii Betsuin on February 15, 2018 beginning at 6 p.m.

Please pass the word to those who may be interested in a no-strings-attached orientation to our denomination of Buddhism. Consider inviting them to attend with you.

Visitors and regulars alike have the opportunity to hear the choir, get a brief introduction to our services, learn a bit about our history and the teachings, go on a tour of the temple and Pacific Buddhist Academy, and wrap up with Q&A and refreshments. An enlightening way to spend Nirvana Day evening!

David Atcheson



Betsuin Dharma School News Holiday Festivities Debbie Kubota

What a fun-filled, festive holiday celebration, plus the highlight of the event, a visit from a “special someone” who had a box full of gifts for all of our keiki.

On Sunday, December 17, the holiday spirit filled the air as the Betsuin Social Hall was filled with Dharma School students and families who enjoyed making different kinds of ornaments - fused bead shapes and treasure-filled glass balls, making gingerbread houses, taking funny family photos at the winter wonderland photo booth and singing along to Christmas carols played on the viola by Dean Sumikawa and by the ukulele group, Chika and Caden Matsu-moto, led by Cameron Kubota.

After the 10 AM service was over, the rest of our Betsuin sangha joined in. Many of them got into the holiday spirit as they gathered in front of the winter wonderland scene (generously provided and set-up by Ann from Moiliili Hongwanji) to take photos. It was so much fun to see them put on props such as reindeer antlers, Santa hats, Christmas light headbands, minion caps and garland lei, then striking funny poses for the different photos. The photo booth really brought out the “child” in everyone.

The highlight of the day was when Santa arrived, and had gifts for all of our keiki. The kids were delighted to have him visit our temple and were so tickled to have him call their names to get their gifts.

Food was plentiful and hot chocolate made to order really added to the festivities.

Many, many thanks to the PTO and Dharma School parents and teachers who made this event possible.



Please join us for
more Dharma School fun:

Sunday, February 11 - Visit to the
Children's Discovery Center and Kakaako Park
Saturday, February 24 - Shabu Shabu Night
Sunday, April 15 - Earth Week Fair
Sunday, April 29 - Eshin-ni / Kakushin-ni Day
Sunday, May 6 - Keiki Day - plans are in the
making for an outdoor activity... stay tuned!

**Hongwanji
Radio Programs
FEBRUARY 2018
KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 03 Rev. Hiroaki Kadono
10 Rev. Kosho Yagi
17 Prof. Kazunori Takahashi
24 Rev. Shinji Kawagoe

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8:00 AM

- 04 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
11 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
18 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
25 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 04 Scout Sunday
Service 9:30 am
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
11 Rev. Sol Kalu
18 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
25 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Nicchu Service 1pm

- 04 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
11 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
18 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
25 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Dharma School
Service 9 am**

- 04 Scout Sunday
Service 9:30 am
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
11 No DS / Field Trip To
Children's Discovery
Center in Kakaako
18 Rev. Sol Kalu
25 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

In Memoriam



DECEMBER 2017

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 08/29/2017 MIYADA, Konoe (103) | 15 SANPEI, Nora (89) |
| 11/14/2017 TANAKA, Eiichi (88) | 16 OKINO, Shirley Tamiye (81) |
| 11/20/2017 MATSUDA, Hanami (85) | 20 KAWAKAMI, Edna Matsuko (94) |
| | 20 NAKATANI, Lorraine Toshie (91) |
| 01 NAGATA, Larry Masaru (95) | 21 MATSUURA, Sally Shigeko (86) |
| 01 NOMURA, Frank Michitose (88) | 21 TAKEMOTO, Marion Okano (104) |
| 04 IWASA, Jeanette Fusano (94) | 24 EDWARDS, Doris Sumie (84) |
| 08 ENOKI, Jean Hisaye (92) | 26 HAMURA, Craig Kenichi (74) |
| 11 LEDBETTER, Kenneth E. (79) | 29 MORITOMO, Larry Minoru (84) |
| 13 TORIKAWA, Elsie Yoshino (93) | 31 TSUKAMOTO, Yukie Beatrice (92) |

2018 Memorial Service Schedule

2018 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2017 – 1 year	2007 – 13 year	1986 – 33 year
2016 – 3 year	2002 – 17 year	1969 – 50 year
2012 – 7 year	1994 – 25 year	1919 – 100 year

Nursing Home Services for FEBRUARY 2018

- 01 Hale Nani – Rimban Hagio
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Hasebe
08 Maluhia – Rev. Kalu
Liliha – Rev. Kaufmann
09 Kuakini – cancelled (Giseikai)
22 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kalu
23 Leahi – Rev. Kamuro



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