



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

Vol. 71, No.3
MARCH 2016



NEWSLETTER

of the

Honpa Hongwanji

Hawaii Betsuin

www.hawaiibetsuin.org

2016 Slogan:

Embrace Change:

New Vision

(Create Engagement)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister

Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Spring OHigan Service Scheduled for March 13; Speaker will be the Reverend Richard Tennes

The Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin welcomes all to our Spring Ohigan combined service scheduled for March 13, 2016 at 9:30 AM.

The word Higan means the “other shore” of enlightenment. (O is a word to indicate politeness.) Traditionally, Ohigan is a week-long observance held during the vernal equinox and autumnal equinox. Equinox is a day when day and night are of equal length, and the sun sets directly in the west. The Sutra states that Amida Buddha’s Pure Land is in the west. So, for a long time, people looked at the sunset on the equinox day and reflected about Amida Buddha. But Amida Buddha does not only exist in the west; Amida is always with us and embracing us. Ohigan is another opportunity to reflect on Amida Buddha’s Wisdom and Compassion, which promises to save us. Please come join us for this solemn but peaceful service.

This year’s guest speaker is Rev. Richard Tennes. Rev. Tennes was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He has a background in religious studies, literature, and music and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Roosevelt University in Chicago. He had a longtime interest in Asian religions, particularly Buddhism, and an introduction to the Pure Land teaching of Shinran Shonin, led him to the Shin Buddhist tradition. He received a Master of Buddhist Studies degree from the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) in Berkeley, California in 2007. After he and his wife Parinya moved to Hawaii in 2003, his involvement with the Buddhist Study Center and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin led to a decision to pursue the path of becoming a Shin Buddhist minister. After academic studies at IBS, Rev. Tennes received Tokudo and Kyoshi training and ordination in Kyoto, Japan in 2007. He served as Associate Minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin from 2007 to 2013, where he focused on Buddhist Education programs for adults. Since July 2013, Rev. Tennes has been serving as the Resident Minister of Kahului Hongwanji Mission on Maui.



Eshinni Day
will be observed on
Sunday April 24
as a combined service
starting at 9:30 AM
Please mark your calendar!

Dharma Message: “Cherry Blossoms” Rev. Yuika Hasebe



“We depart one after another more quickly than the dewdrops on the roots or the tips of the blades of grasses. So it is said. Hence, we may have radiant faces in the morning, but by evening we may turn into white ashes.” Quote from “Letters of Rennyō”

Hello! I hope everybody is having a wonderful month of March! Winter has finished, and spring has come. Even though Hawaii is known to be constantly summer, this year’s winter was cold, wasn’t it? March is the season of cherry blossoms-sakura in Japan. Starting from the South and moving up to the north, the beauty of cherry

blossoms spread throughout Japan. Of course, the white and pink colors of the flowers are beautiful, but people also love the cherry blossoms because of its transiency. The flower can be in full bloom, yet it can fall at any second. With one gust of wind or a few drops of rain, the fragile flowers can fall at any time. Because of the frail beauty of cherry blossoms, people saw the impermanence of it and appreciated the preciousness of the moment with the cherry blossoms.

Shinran Shonin, too, saw the transience of cherry blossoms. When he was nine, he went to Mt. Hiei to be ordained. When Shinran Shonin arrived at Mt. Hiei, it was already late at night, and the minister, Jien Kasho, recommended holding off on the Tokudo ordination until the next morning. But Shinran Shonin insisted on having the ceremony that night. He read a poem which was “Cherry blossoms that are felt to last till the morrow, may well blow away during the night” (Asu arito omou kokoro no adazakura/yowa ni arashi no fukanumonokawa) [The poem explains that nothing is certain, and there is no guarantee of tomorrow. So, it is said that Shinran Shonin hurried and asked Master Jien to proceed with the ordination. Ren-

nyō Shonin also said “Regarding listening to the Dharma, do not think there is tomorrow. Hurry up and hurry up.” When we face our death, if we haven’t solved our greatest matter, which is our living and dying, it is terrifying and scary. That is why Rennyō Shonin said that we have to hurry up and listen to the Dharma.

In our mind, we all know there is no guarantee of tomorrow, but in our heart, we expect there will always be another day waiting for us. Nobody can foresee the future. So, our last day may be tomorrow or even today. This meeting could be your last meeting that you can meet with your loved one. That is how fragile and precious our life is.

Cherry blossoms can fall in one night and our life as well. The frail beauty of cherry blossoms is also the beauty of our life. As Rennyō Shonin wrote “we may have radiant faces in the morning, but by evening we may turn into white ashes.” On this occasion of spring, let us together reflect about our life.

¹ Jodo Shinshu a Guide Hongwanji international center, Kyoto Japan



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 15th 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.

GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Ralston Nagata, 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.

2016 Asoka Award Recipient:

Carol Sumie Nunotani Yamamoto

submitted by Fujiko Motobu

CONGRATULATIONS, Carol, for being the recipient of the prestigious Asoka Award. The person receiving this award must present the qualities of a true, kind, compassionate, and loving person, exhibiting the teachings of Buddha in their daily living.

Historically, around 270 BC, a warrior named Asoka became the emperor of Mauryan dynasty in India. Emperor Asoka began his reign by expanding the empire that his grandfather had established. He was very successful and held a sizeable portion of India. But one battle resulted in a great loss of lives that Asoka was filled with remorse for what he had done. This event caused him to undergo spiritual transformation that was instrumental on the spreading of Buddhism. He personally converted to Buddhist and applied Buddhist principles to the way he ruled. Emperor Asoka ceased all military conquests and violence and his efforts went into building schools, hospitals and wellbeing for people. He went on Buddhist pilgrimages, built monuments and sent missionaries to spread Buddhism beyond India.

Carol was born in Hawi on the Big Island and at age 12, she and her younger sister were adopted by relatives because both mother and father had passed away. Her new mother was active at Lanai Hongwanji, served as Fujinkai president, "kitchen boss", organist, bon dance teacher, and helped in whatever way possible for the temple. Carol picked up the wonderful attributes from her new mother which she continues to practice even today. She graduated from Lanai High

School and moved to Honolulu in 1948 to attend the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus. She earned her degree in Education in 1952. While attending UH she met her future husband, Thomas Yamamoto, her college beau, whom she married in 1958. Together they have three children, a daughter Lynne who now lives in North Hampton, Massachusetts, and two sons, Ryan and Reid both in Honolulu with their wives, Jann and Maxine. There are four grandchildren, Zane, Aisha, Logan, and Alize.

Carol taught at many elementary schools, including Kapiolani Elementary in Hilo, Lanai Elementary, Kalihi Elementary and Maemae Elementary from where she retired in 1989. She was also an "installation teacher" for a program where she traveled to teach at different schools around the state. Carol also participated in a one year exchange program, teaching in Providence, Rhode Island. She chose the east coast rather than the west or Midwest to widen her experiences.

Thomas was active in the YBA and he started to take the children to Dharma School while Carol remained at home doing house work on Sundays. She later became involved in temple activities and became an officer in the Dharma School PTO. She also became active in the newly formed

Upasika Society which was created for the English Speaking women, while Fujinkai was made up of Japanese speaking women. Eventually they merged and became English speaking, renamed, BWA or Buddhist Women's Association. Carol also became the BWA Federation President in 2006 when Hawaii hosted the 13th BWA World Convention in Honolulu, hosting over 3,000 women from all over the world. It was a huge undertaking and a very successful event.



Carol continues to serve the Hawaii

Betsuin and its affiliate organizations. She is active with the BWA, Project Dana Board, assists the instructor of Rhythm and Life exercise, Project Dana Dancer, and serves on the Hawaii Betsuin Board of Directors. She also does many temple related volunteer services.

She is a great mother and grandmother and her son says that she is very proficient in using the computer and communicating by e mail, as well as playing her Sudoku or solitaire on her mini I-pad. Reid's family attend services at the temple and are very active, young participants, certainly carrying on the parents' traditions.

At 85 years young, Carol truly exhibits a lifestyle that all of us admire and should follow into her footsteps of "selfless giving". We all truly congratulate you, Carol. You're the best.

Betsuin Dharma School News

Dharma Talk by Wayne Yoshioka

On Sunday, January 31, the 9:00 a.m. Family Service congregation was treated to a wonderful Dharma Talk by our high school teacher, Wayne Yoshioka. He read the story of the Grateful Statues from the Japanese Children's Favorite Stories book. He surprised a few people in the congregation when he called their names and asked them to help him act out the story —Nannette Ganotisi, Chika Matsumoto, Randi Shioi, Faith Nakasone, Doris Fujiwara, Laura Nakasone, Jovie Yoshioka, Alan and Debbie Kubota. Alan and Debbie stood on Wayne's left, and they portrayed the old man and old lady in the story. The rest were on Wayne's right and they were the O-Jizo—statues. The story told of an elderly couple who made straw hats to sell to the townspeople. In hopes of selling enough hats to buy some rice cakes for New Years, the man set off toward town. Unfortunately, he couldn't sell a single hat. As he sadly turned back toward home, it began to snow. He came upon 6 stone statues

of Jizo (the protector of all children) covered with snow. The old man didn't want them to be so cold in the snow and decided to give them his hats. When he ran out of hats, he gave the last one his scarf. When he returned home, his wife was so proud and happy to hear of his kindness toward the Jizo, which was more important than having New Years' rice cakes. The couple went to bed and were awakened

Debbie Kubota

during the night to find a straw mat at their front door which was covered with a big, beautiful, fresh rice cake. When they looked up, they saw the tracks in the snow and off in the distance the stone Jizo walking away, still wearing their hats. The Jizo had come to show their gratitude for the old man's kindness. What a delightful story with a message about Dana, selfless giving. And Wayne made it even more fun by making it into an impromptu play!



Next BWA
Mini Market
May 15th



Hawaii Buddhist Council
Bodhi Day Service
April 10, 2016 at 9:00 am

Higashi Hongwanji
1685 Alaneo St.
Speaker: Mrs. Chizuko Endo
Co-founder of the
Taiko Center of the Pacific



Betsuin will observe Bodhi Day on April 3rd

Taste of Hongwanji and Bazaar Scheduled for April 17th

The Taste of Hongwanji and Spring Bazaar will be back again welcoming the community to visit the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin to learn about Jodo Shinshu and to have some fun with our Sangha. The date is Sunday, April 17, 2016 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

This year we will have a lion dance and performances by the HMS and Fort Gakuen students. We have three people to thank for chairing the Taste of Hongwanji and Bazaar. They are:

Jerry Tamamoto, Irene Nohara and Wendy Harman.

The bazaar will feature handcrafted items, plants, fresh produce, special treasures, and prepared delicacies such as pickled vegetables, sushi rice, baked goods, local favorites-beef stew and fried noodles-and other goodies. The Hongwanji Cookbooks, all 6 volumes, will also be on sale. Donations for the Bazaar are welcomed and can be dropped off at the business of-

fice. Nonperishable items should be dropped off as soon as possible and perishable items the day before the Bazaar. All revenues derived from this activity will go toward supporting the temple in providing compassionate help and services to temple members and community friends.

We are also preselling Kala Kokua Boneless Smoked Chicken, 14 oz Frozen for \$10 and Kala Kokua Kalua Pig, 18 oz. Frozen \$10. Tickets can be purchased and picked up at the temple business office or from various temple affiliates. You may also call 536-7044 for more information.

**Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
and Sister Oahu Temples**

**"Taste of Hongwanji" 2016
& Bazaar**

**Sunday
April 17th
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

"Ono-Kine" food
beef stew - fried noodles
sushi and more!

**Fresh Fruits
and Vegetables**

KC Waffle Dogs

Bazaar

Thrift Shop

Plants

Bake shop

Shave Ice

Don't forget your coupons!

Donations Welcomed!

**Adult
Ukulele
Club**

**Starts
Thursday
March 31st
10 to 11 AM
in the
Dining Room**

Betsuin BWA News

Fujiko Motobu



THE MEANING OF THE WORD GOJI

At the first BWA General Membership Meeting held on January 17, 2016, the Rev. Hagio explained the meaning of the word Goji. In Japanese Kanji, the word GO means to guard or protect, and the kanji, JI means to maintain or to support; thus, Goji means for the people to protect and support the temple.

GOJI membership is also stressed especially in the beginning of the new year, so that the temple goers will join and become the protector and supporter of Hawaii Betsuin. It is important for all temple goers to become Goji members and continue to serve one another at our temple and support our ministers. In order to become a supporter or protector we need to pay our dues so that the upkeep of the temple will be done efficiently. Although there are many volunteers, the maintenance of our beautiful temple is costly.

We hope all of you will pay your dues and become a dues paying GOJI member from now on. The dues for one person is now \$180.00 per year and if you divide it into 12 months, you pay \$15.00 per month. \$15.00 is the anticipated amount of minimum wage for one hour of work. Although many of the seniors are with fixed income, most of the senior BWA members are Goji members. If you would give up two fast-food meals, you will save \$15.00 to pay your Goji fee for one month. Not eating fatty fast food will improve your diet and health and enrich our Goji membership. It will be a WIN WIN situation for all.

MARTIN LUTHER KING WALK

Martin Luther King walk from Magic Island to Kapiolani Park was enjoyed by all on Monday, January 18, 2016. With BWA sponsorship, many ladies and associates either walked or rode the PBA bus. There were approximately fifty participants. Unfortunately, Hawaii Betsuin BWA members were missing except for a very few ladies and spouses that you could count on one hand. Participants from Kailua, Moiliili and Jikoen outnumbered the Betsuin ladies.

TASTE OF HONGWANJI BAZAAR

Bazaar this year will be held in the month of April, on the 17th. Preparation for it will be tremendous work for the BWA women, therefore, please save the following dates for helping at the bazaar. The dates are April

4 through the 17th, so mark your calendar and save April 4 to the 17th, 14 days.

GOAL FOR THE BWA FOR YEAR 2016

Keeping the meaning of GOJI, supporting and protecting our temple, and our BWA organization, we anticipate an extremely busy and productive year in working together in all the activities. Membership also needs to grow and in looking for new members, perhaps we should first look into our own families and friends. If we all bring in one person, the membership will double.

A LITTLE SMILE GOES A LONG WAY

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.....Did you ever notice the Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.....Did you ever notice when you put the 2 words THE and IRS together it spells 'THEIRS'.....You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

People like to sit in the FRONT of the bus. They like to sit in the BACK at the temple. And, they all like to be in the CENTER of attention.

If you don't have a sense of humor..... you probably don't have any sense at all. Politicians and diapers should be changed often and for the same reason. Because they're full of.....



BOY SCOUT TROOP 49 Scout Sunday 2016

Douglas Yanagihara, Troop 49 Boy Scout

The Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts gathered in full uniform for a Scout Sunday Service on Sunday February 7, 2016. Scout Sunday is an annual tradition that recognizes the contributions of Scouting for Boys, Girls, and Cub Scouts. The Scouts were acknowledged for their achievements, such as the Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award, the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver Award and

Gold Award and the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award. After the service, the Boy Scouts cooked quesadillas with cheese and pulled pork. Inspired by their trip to Japan last summer, the Girl Scouts had a "Nagashi Somen" activity, roughly translated as "flowing somen" noodles. It is a fun traditional activity in Japan to cool down during the mid-summer heat. The Scout Sunday guests as well

as Scouts had a lot of fun catching the somen with their chopsticks as it flowed down the bamboo chute. The Cub Scouts held their pinewood derby car race in the Annex Hall. We take this Scout Sunday opportunity to thank the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin for their continued support as the Units' chartered organization.



Girl Scouts, Cub Scout, and Boy Scout representatives preparing to raise the flag before the service.



Hiyashi somen provided by the Girl Scouts.



Girl Scout Chika Matsumoto and Boy Scout Ethan Lau presenting part of the Scouts' gift to the Temple.

Coconut Island Overnighter

Some boy scouts from Troop 49 took advantage of an Oceanography merit badge overnighter, Saturday, January 30 to Sunday, January 31, held on Moku O Lo'e Island (also known as Coconut Island) through the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB). Mr. Walter Ikehara, a Troop parent, helped review the requirements before the overnighter so that we would be prepared to get the most out of the presentations by Mr. Leon Weaver of HIMB. The scouts performed a fun experiment to catch plankton and determine whether they were more attracted to red or blue light. We took water samples back to the classroom lab, which we viewed under a microscope to identify plankton. Of course, Aunty Irene fed us well. It was a great experience for those who participated.

In Memoriam



DECEMBER 2015

**Hongwanji Radio
Programs
MARCH 2016
KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

5 Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
12 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
19 Rev. Tatsuo Muneto
26 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8 am

06 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
13 **Spring Higan Service**
Rev. Ryoso Toshima
20 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
27 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

06 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
13 **Spring Higan 9:30 am
Combined Service**
Rev. Richard Tennes
20 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
27 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

**Dharma School
9:00 AM**

06 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
13 **Spring Higan**
Combined Service 9:30 AM
Rev. Richard Tennes
20 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
27 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio



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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1/3 NAKAMURA, Seichi (92) | 1/18 TSUGAWA, Tadashi (94) |
| 1/4 KANEMITSU, Tomiko (84) | 1/19 OKUMURA, Betty-Anne Reiko (93) |
| 1/5 TOMITA, Helen Yuriko (84) | 1/20 FURUTA, Harry Toshio (86) |
| 1/6 UMEDA, Larry Yasuhiro (86) | 1/20 TOMITA, Kenneth Kaname (88) |
| 1/7 HABU, Lorraine Teruko (95) | 1/23 MIYAZAKI, Harold Susumu (72) |
| 1/15 HIRONAKA, Stephen Tsutomu (72) | 1/28 SATO, Ichiye (101) |
| 1/16 KIMURA, Roy Kunimitsu (73) | 1/30 KOIZUMI, Sueko Yoshida (86) |
| 1/17 KINOSHITA, Robert Norihide (85) | |

2016 Memorial Service Schedule

2016 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2015 – 1 year	2004 – 13 year	1984 – 33 year
2014 – 3 year	2000 – 17 year	1967 – 50 year
2010 – 7 year	1992 – 25 year	1917 – 100 year

Nursing Home Services

- 03 Hale Nani – Rev. Kaufmann
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Hasebe
10 Maluhia – Rev. Hagio
Liliha – Rev. Kamuro
11 Hale Pulama Mau – Rev. Tomioka
24 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Tomioka
25 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-butsu.

-Shinran Shonin