



1727 Pali Highway
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. Joshin Kamuro
Rev. Sol Kalu

Spring Higan Service Scheduled for March 19th

Speaker: Bishop Eric Matsumoto

You are cordially invited to attend the Hawaii Betsuin's 2017 Spring Higan Services scheduled for Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 8:00 AM (Japanese language service) and at 9:30 AM (English service):

Higan means "other shore" whereas the word Shigan means "this shore." In the present world, everything is so fast and busy. Sometimes, we only focus on the problems in front of us and forget that we will not live forever. Therefore, on Higan, let us calm our mind and reflect on our life. Through doing this, we can re-realize our ego, blind passion, and suffering, and feel the joy of being embraced by Amida Buddha's Compassion which means never to be abandoned.



Our speaker will be Bishop Eric Matsumoto of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Bishop Matsumoto was born in Kona, Hawaii and graduated from Konawaena High School. He is also a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, majoring in History and Liberal Studies-Japanese Language & Culture. After graduating from UH Hilo, he entered Ryukoku University Graduate School and majored in Shin Buddhism Studies. Bishop Matsumoto was also a recipient of the

Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship. After completing his studies in Japan, Bishop Matsumoto's first assignment was the Hawaii Betsuin. He has also served at the Honoka'a, Kamuela, Kohala, Paauilo Hongwanji temples on the Big Island, and Moiliili Hongwanji Mission in Honolulu. He has served as the Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii since March 2011.

Commemoration on the Accession of Jodo Shinshu Tradition Services Return

March through May 2017 in Kyoto

Services in Kyoto for the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition begin again in March 2017 and go through May. You can view services live online.

The next service date designated for the overseas districts (BCA, Canada, and Hawaii) is March 31, 2017. Important: Services begin at 2 p.m. Japan time. Since Japan is 19 hours ahead of Hawaii, to watch the March 31 service from Hawaii, tune in at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 30. Mark your calendar!

For complete information, including the livestream link, visit the web site hongwanjihawaii.com and click the Accession graphic with candles under Coming Events.

Dharma Message: “Itself”

Rimban, Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Page 94 in The Teaching of Buddha: There are five things which no one is able to accomplish in this world: first, to cease growing old when he is growing old; second, to cease being sick; third, to cease dying; fourth, to deny extinction when there is extinction; fifth, to deny exhaustion.

Ordinary people in the world sooner or later run into these facts, and most people consequently suffer, but those who have heard the Buddha's teaching do not suffer because they understand that these are unavoidable.

It is said that time flies by quickly so that before you know it, time has

passed you by. So... how do you plan to spend this spring?

A long time ago, our life span was about 50 years, but nowadays the average is believed to be 80 years. The question, therefore, is can we live safely and wisely now that our life span has lengthened.

Through receiving the teaching of Buddha we are taught the true meaning of self. It may seem contradictory but this means that we don't spend the time to think or study about self. However, having time on one's hands makes it difficult to live without thinking of self.

Buddha said “People of the world, being weak in virtue, engage in strife over matters which are not urgent.”

As sentient beings, we all have the tendency to keep worrying about things and become stressed when deadlines approach, so we work on tasks while constantly whining “Busy--Busy.” I think the above statement exemplifies the state of our world.

At the present time we place great priority on creating a life of convenience, making life easier or better. However, it cannot be said that since conditions have improved that the human being is released from suffering or blind desires. No matter how many conveniences we may have, as long as we are not released we cannot be saved. With conveniences, only surface values appreciate but human beings are fundamentally not released.

Buddha described human life as a “Suffering Lump,” suffering after “Blind Desires!” “Blind Desires” are said to be shapeless, having neither body nor

tail, and being formless makes it difficult to grasp. Sickness is a comparable situation. The pain of neuralgia and rheumatism is merely the outward symptom whose underlying cause basically remains unknown.

The “Suffering Self” or “Blind Desires” cannot be established or proven, and so in this context Buddha refers to us as “ordinary men of delusions.” Amida talks of the true form of ourselves and that by constantly staying with Amida Buddha, Buddha is imparting his teachings. The “Suffering Self” eventually gains salvation through the calling voice “Namo Amida Butsu.” In Gassho.



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.

GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, Japanese section editor*; Production: *Stacy Bradshaw, Colleen Kunishige; Joyce Tomita*, 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.

The Wisteria Ballroom Dancing Club Invites You to Dance!

*Mondays,
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
in the Social Hall*



Dances change every 8 weeks!

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

Betsuin BWA News and Events

TASTE OF HONGWANJI BAZAAR ON MARCH 25TH

One of the busiest months for the BWA ladies is in March when the preparation for the Taste of Hongwanji bazaar is scheduled. Sorting and pricing for the rummage sale takes a lot of time and effort, so we need as many of you to come and help.

Liane Wong is the chair person for this annually and we owe her and her committee members a great deal of thanks. This is a time consuming job in sorting out the donations, for some are perfectly clean and sorted out nicely; others may be in utter despair and need to be discarded. This year, BWA will not prepare any kind of food,

so please help at the rummage prep. We appreciate all the help that is given by our members, friends, etc. for without your help we would certainly not be able to make the money for our temple. The BWA's rummage sale is one of the best money raisers at the bazaar.

Please set aside March 13 through 26 for the help needed for the rummage sale. **BWA LADIES AND FRIENDS ARE THE BEST !!!!**

HOW ABOUT A GOOD

LAUGH? Henry is looking for a new assistant at work, but wants to hire someone who is sensitive about his deformity—Three men apply for the job, and Henry arranges to meet them. He calls the first man into his

Fujiko Motobu

office and interviews him. The applicant does very well, but then Henry asks him if notices anything unusual about his appearance. Rather than be tactful and say no, the man says, "Yes, you have no ears". Henry gets upset and throws the man out. The second man is called in and again, the interview goes very well until Henry asks the same question. Again the man says, "You have no ears." And Henry throws him out. The last man is invited in and the interview proceeds as before. Finally Henry asks the question. "Do you notice anything unusual about my appearance?: The man says, "Apart from the contact lenses, no." "That is very observant." Says Henry. "Not many people would notice I'm wearing contact lenses" "I didn't" replies the man. "I saw an optometrist's bill on your desk and figured you couldn't wear glasses without any ears."

BWA CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2017

March 5, Sunday: last day collection for Dana Day Project

March 11, Saturday 10-12am BWA Executive Board meeting

March 13-25, **HELP NEEDED:**

Prep for Taste of Hongwanji Rummage Sale

March 26, Sunday **HELP, HELP ALL OF YOU:** Bazaar Rummage sale

April 1, Saturday, 7:30 am Hanamatsuri tray favors—HELP needed.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: FRUIT BARS

(Contributed by Jean Yoshihara)

2 cups flour;

½ cup confectioners—powdered sugar, sifted;

1 cup butter

Cut butter into flour and sugar. Press into 9x13" buttered pan. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes or until light brown. **TOPPING:** (Prepare this while crust is baking) Sift ½ cup flour, 1 tsp baking powder and ½ tsp. salt. Add 1 ¼ cups sugar; Add 4 eggs, slightly beaten; Fold in 1 cup candied fruits and 1 cup chopped walnuts.; Pour into hot crust. Bake 30-35 minutes in 350 oven. Slice while hot. Use a plastic knife and scrape the sides to separate the crust from the pan. Cut into small pieces. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve warm Fruit Bars. Refrigerate remaining bars. Re heat in microwave oven for about 20-30 seconds before serving.

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!

Taste of Hongwanji and Bazaar Scheduled for March 26

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, March 26, 2017 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, with much more entertainment to follow. 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 vol-

umes, will also be on sale.

We will also have games for the entire family. Donations for the Bazaar are welcomed and can be dropped off at the business office. 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 pre selling from Kukui Sausage Company, Kim Chee Sausage and Portuguese Sausage 8 oz. for \$6.00 each. Maki Sushi from KYM Sushi Bento & Catering is being sold for \$5.00. 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
Taste of Hongwanji
and Bazaar
Sunday
March 26, 2017
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Rummage Sale
 Kukui Brand Sausages ★ **Ono-Food**
 Sushi ★ Fresh Produce ★ Baked Goods
 ★ **Hongwanji Cook Books!** ★
1727 Pali Hwy.
Honolulu 96817

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!



BETSUIN GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout New Zealand Trip Breakfast Fundraiser

Imiloa Borland, Troop 415

It's an early morning in Nu'uau valley and the scouts of Honpa Hongwanji Mission are preparing a breakfast fundraiser. There are bags of pancake mix, dozens of eggs, and packaged sausages ready to be cooked. It's an early morning full of mixing, cooking, and laughter.

While cooking hundreds of pancakes, sausages, eggs and many bowls of miso soup can be exhausting, the smiling faces of those who enjoyed our breakfast made it incredibly rewarding.



We offer a special mahalo to everyone who supported this event, including, our families, the aunts, uncles, and scouts who helped us prepare this feast. Special mahalo to all who came to support the Girl Scouts and our trip to New Zealand!

It was a joy to see all of you enjoy the miso soup and pancakes!

Full House at BSC for Dalai Lama Awakening

Over 65 people attended a screening of the documentary Dalai Lama Awakening at the Buddhist Study Center (BSC) on Saturday, February 4. The event was sponsored by Hawaii Betsuin and BSC and received promotional help from Moiliili Hongwanji and other island temples. An estimated 20-25% of attendees were new to Hongwanji.

The 2015 film documents a "synthe-

sis" meeting of diverse thought leaders and scientists who travel to Dharamsala to solve world problems and meet with the Dalai Lama. Egos emerge and the meeting is far from smooth sailing. When participants begin to rally toward fixing a high-profile problem far removed from most of their own lives, the Dalai Lama skillfully and firmly redirects their focus toward self-reflection, leading to some

transformational moments. (See <http://www.dalailamafilm.com/> for trailers and download information.)

In a way mirroring the action in the film, after the screening we enjoyed hearty refreshments and small group discussions before reconvening to share insights and comments in the larger group. Wheels are turning for more "meaningful movie" events.

Special thanks to the Betsuin ministers and board for endorsing this event, Rev. Kevin and Jamie Lyn Itokazu at BSC, Rosemary and Alan Goto for registration and refreshments assistance, and all who contributed food including Jerry and Joyce Tamamoto, Stacy Bradshaw, Wendy Harman, Irene Nohara. It was team Hongwanji in action!

David Atcheson



From the Green Team

“Ocean Friendly Restaurants” How About Temples?

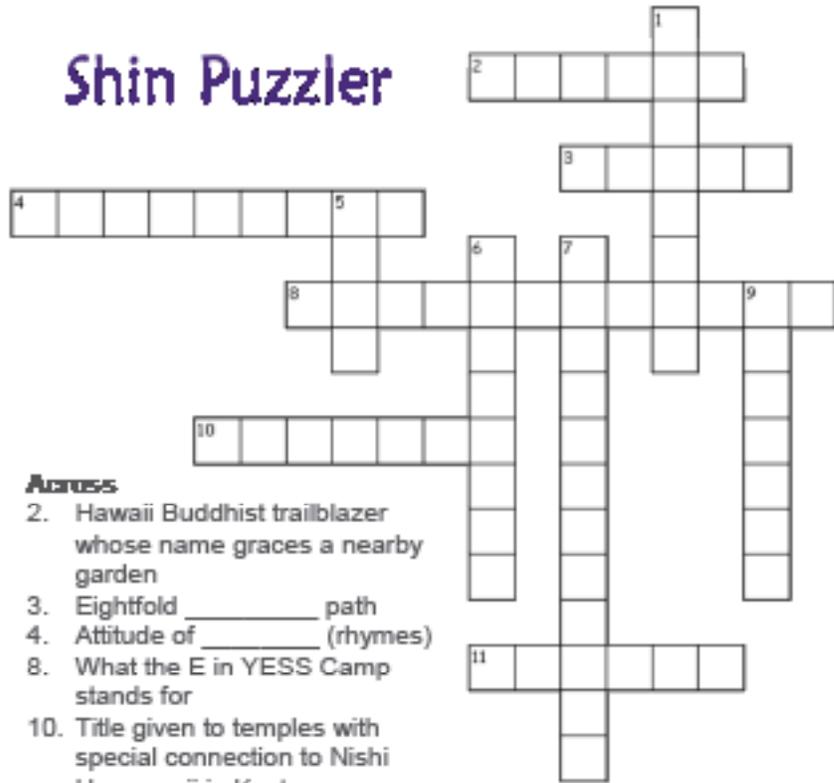
At our February Green Team meeting, one of the informational items was Ocean Friendly Restaurants. This is a program run by the Surfrider Foundation to certify restaurants that do not use styrofoam and commit to reusables and compostables instead (see <http://www.oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org/>).

Why not styrofoam, or more accurately, expanded polystyrene foam? This fossil fuel product does not biodegrade – like other plastics, it often escapes into the environment and ends up in the ocean, where it breaks down into tiny pieces that can harm marine life and enter the food chain. The more we understand this, the more we see that our temple’s BYOCups (Bring Your Own Cup, Utensils, Plate) initiative can help us live up to the Golden Chain: “I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.”

BYOCups is not all-or-nothing. Sometimes we forget, guests may not bring their own cup, and at large special events single-use items may be all but unavoidable. In those cases, compostables are an alternative. Here’s a tip: a good source for compostable cups, plates, bowls, utensils, and even clam shells at low prices is Containerland at 666 Mapunapuna St. We may get to know this supplier pretty well on our way to becoming an ocean-friendly temple.

David Atcheson,
Green Team “convener”

Shin Puzzler



Across

2. Hawaii Buddhist trailblazer whose name graces a nearby garden
3. Eightfold _____ path
4. Attitude of _____ (rhymes)
8. What the E in YESS Camp stands for
10. Title given to temples with special connection to Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto
11. The only Constant; the 5-year theme says embrace it

Down

1. We sing it at the end of the service
5. Selfless giving
6. Japanese term for BWA
7. Queen who attended Hoonko service in 1901
9. This Bishop helped settle the Waipahu strike in 1904

Puzzle by David Atcheson with help from Discovery Education.

Answers: Go to the sangha for guidance ☺. Or visit hawaiibetsuin.org/puzzler

Last Call for Green Fair

Our combined Earth Day Weekend Service & Green Fair is scheduled for April 23rd – look for more info in the April issue of the Goji.

In the meantime, if you or your affiliated organization would like to have a display or activity at the Green Fair and you are not already in touch, please email greenteaminfo@hawaiibetsuin.org or call the Betsuin office for more information or to sign up for the event.



Betsuin Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

January 14 - Ho'onko Evening Service & Bingo Night

Our Betsuin sangha, including Dharma School students and families enjoyed a special evening service with a wonderful Dharma message given by Reverend Shigenori Makino. Thank you Rev. Makino for a very enlightening message. "The warm, compassionate and unhindered light of Amida illuminates the darkness of my ignorance...Namo Amida Butsu." After the service, we all had fun in the social hall eating hurricane popcorn, playing bingo, and picking our prizes.



January 29 - New Years' Party & Farewell Recognition for Reverend Tomioka

To kick off the program, the Dharma School Taiko Group performed three pieces. "Laulima" (an original composition), which means cooperation or many hands, highlights our multi-cultural, ethnically diverse island communities. "Yodan," a lively syncopated piece, features four-sided drumming with turning between two drums and "running around" the drums. Their final piece was

"Takane," the first original composition of the group and their signature piece, which was dedicated to Rev. Tomi. The dancers donned masks of Rev. Tomi, his bear, Valentine, and his Elvis impersonation, and danced around the room. Then group leader Jovie Yoshioka presented the masks to Rev. Tomi.



To further honor Rev. Tomi, the Dharma School students, families and teachers walked into the hall singing "You Are My Sunshine," accompanied by Caden Matsumoto and Cameron Kubota playing ukulele. A chain of bears with heartfelt farewell messages was presented to Rev. Tomi. Wayne Yoshioka also presented Rev. Tomi with a new "friend" for Valentine, Chompy, to join him on his journey to the Big Island

Reverend Tomi was very special to all of us, and he will be greatly missed!

Upcoming Events:

March 12 - Orient Express - exciting themed event following Sunday service. Oodles of noodles! Come experience an Asian tour for your palate.

May 7 - Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma School Activity at HMS - Sports Day / Undokai



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

- 4 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
11 Rev. Daien Jeffrey Soga
18 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
25 Rev. Hiromi Kawaji

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service

8:00 AM

- 05 Hongwanji Day
Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
12 Professor Naoki Nabeshima
19 Spring Higan
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
26 Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 05 Hongwanji Day
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
12 Professor Naoki Nabeshima
19 Spring Higan
Family Service 9:30 am
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
26 Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar

Nicchū Service

1:00 PM

- 05 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
12 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
19 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
26 Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar

**Dharma School Service
9:00 PM**

- 05 Hongwanji Day /Rev. Sol Kalu
12 Rev. Sol Kalu
19 Spring Higan
Family Service 9:30 am
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
26 Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar

**MAR. 26 TASTE OF HONGWANJI
NO SERVICES WILL BE HELD**

In Memoriam



JANUARY 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. Namo Amida Butsu

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 MORISHIGE, Owen Akito (81) | 21 HAYASHI, Yasuko (95) |
| 2 NISHIYAMA, Lewis Hiromu (93) | 21 KOBAYASHI, Joan Kyoko (86) |
| 3 MATSUOKA, Thomas Tomosaburo (83) | 22 FUJIOKA, Michael Tsuyoshi (55) |
| 8 UMAMOTO, Kazuto (100) | 23 YOMOGIDA, Yoshiko (101) |
| 11 YOKOYAMA, Kiyoto (101) | 24 MORIWAKI, Sumiko (79) |
| 12 IKENAGA, Taeko (93) | 25 KAWAMOTO, Akiko Matsubara (95) |
| 12 TAKEO, Kazuo (94) | 25 SONODA, Naeno (98) |
| 12 TANABE, Hanako Nakashima (96) | 28 SHIRAKAWA, Lenore Ritsuko (93) |
| 15 NAKANISHI, Bessie Tsutako (86) | 30 NAKAMOTO, Gracine Yoshio (94) |
| 20 TAKAKI, Fred Shoji (83) | 31 ISHIZAKI, Helen Hamae (95) |

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 – Canceled
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 Namo-amida-butsu.

-Shinran Shonin