



1727 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

# GOJI

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APRIL 2016



NEWSLETTER  
of the

Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin

[www.hawaiihetsuin.org](http://www.hawaiihetsuin.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

## Happy Buddha Day!!

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will observe  
Buddha Day on April 3, 2016

Hawaii Buddhist Council will observe  
Buddha Day on April 10, 2016

Almost 2500 years ago, Buddha was born in India. Do you know what happened when Baby Buddha was born? According to Sutras, which describe the event, Siddhartha took seven steps as soon as he was born. Pointing to the heavens and to the earth, he said in a loud voice, "In the Heavens above and on the Earth below, I alone am the World-Honored One. All that exists in the Three Worlds is suffering, but I will bring comfort." The Heavens were said to have been so moved by these words that they rained down sweet tea in response. (Quoted from Jodo Shinshu A guide).

The seven steps signified that he surpassed the world of the six realms, which are realms of suffering, and he stepped into the world of awakening. The words he proclaimed signified that his life was precious. Nobody can live for others and no one can live for you. No matter what, our life is just simply precious and unique as it is. On this Buddha Day, let us together celebrate that we are able to encounter Buddhism in our lifetime, and let us appreciate Amida Buddha's Compassion which embraces us always.



Eshinni Day  
Sunday April 24  
combined service  
starting at 9:30 AM  
Please mark your calendar!



## New to the Goji: Kanji Corner

### Kanji in a Buddhist Context

# Mu Jyo

“Mujō” means ‘impermanence’ in Japanese. The Buddha taught that because all things within our lives and our world are constantly changing, it’s important to remember that nothing is permanent. By maintaining awareness of this basic truth, we can let go of attachments and learn to relax into the continual flow of life.

Mujō is the same as “anicca”, the word for ‘impermanence’ in Pāli, the language of the early Buddhist texts. According to the teachings of the Buddha, life is comparable to a river: a successive series of different moments, linked together to give the impression of one continuous flow. Life moves from cause to effect, one event to another, one state of existence to another, giving the impression that it is a continuous and unified movement, whereas in reality it is not.

The river of yesterday is not the same as the river of today. The river of this moment is not going to be the same as the river of the next moment. Life changes continuously  
- from the mujowellness.com website

## Eshinni-Kakushinni Day

Eshinni (1182-1271?) had long supported and understood her husband, Shinran Shonin. Because of her support, Shinran was able to propagate the Nembutsu Teaching throughout his life. Eshinni also devoted her life to the Nembutsu Teaching through the warm understanding and constant support of Shinran.

After Shinran’s death in 1263, Shinran and Eshinni’s daughter, Kakushinni (1224-1283), became the caregiver for Shinran Shonin’s grave. That mausoleum became the origin of the Hongwanji. It is also of note that Kakushinni was considered to be the mother of the Shin Buddhist Women’s Associations (BWA).

Let us celebrate this auspicious service for Eshinni and Kakushinni Day on Sunday, April 27 at a combined 9:30 a.m.



# 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.

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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.

## Hawaii Buddhist Council

### Buddha 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

Buddha Day on April 3rd



## Dharma Message: “A Reflection on the Life of Eshinni” Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Eshinni is the wife of Shinran Shonin who founded the Jodo Shinshu path of Pure Land Buddhism. Kakushinni is the youngest daughter of Shinran and Eshinni. Even though the scholars are interested in Eshinni, there is little historical information about her. Consequently, the life of Eshinni is not well documented. Most of what we know about Eshinni comes from ten letters that Eshinni wrote. It is said that Eshinni was born in 1182. One of the widely accepted theories, in recent years, said Shinran and Eshinni married before Shinran Shonin was exiled to Echigo (Niigata Today).

We know that Shinran Shonin’s life was filled with challenges and hardships. He struggled at Mt. Hiei. Then, after twenty years of ascetic practice, he realized that he could not free himself from his blind passions. However, when he met Honen Shonin, who became Shinran’s life time Master, Shinran learned that with the Nembutsu teaching, all beings could be saved.

The time came when Shinran had to be separated from his master, Honen. The government banned the Nembutsu teaching and exiled Honen Shonin to Tosa and Shinran Shonin to Echigo. The weather in Echigo was severe, freezing in winter and hot and humid in summer. In later years, the government pardoned their exile and Shinran Shonin and Eshinni went to Kanto and Kyoto. After spending 20 years in Kyoto, it is said that Eshinni returned to Echigo to take care of people and property; that was the last meeting of Shinran and Eshinni. Even though they lived separately, through Eshinni’s letters, we can see how she loved and cared for Shinran Sho-

nin. No matter what conditions and situations Shinran Shonin had been through, there was always Eshinni to support him.

In one of her letters, Eshinni mentioned that she had a dream about Shinran Shonin. I would like to quote the letter: “When we (Shinran Shonin and Eshinni) were at a place called Saki-no-go in Shimotsuma of Hitachi Province, I saw the dream. The scene appeared to be a dedication ceremony for a recently completed hall. And the hall was facing the east. It must have been an evening festival, for the light from the candle stands was burning brightly in front of the hall. On the west

of the candle stands and in front of the hall there was a piece of wood placed horizontally as if it were a gate on which were hung the images of Buddha.

One did not even have the ordinary face of the Buddha- the center of the light was like the halo of Buddha and the real figure could not be seen. There were nothing but rays of light. The other image had without doubt the face of the Buddha, and I wondered to myself, ‘What is the name of this Buddha?’ Although I do not know who answered, there was a reply that

continued on page 7



### Available at the HHHM Bookstore!

#### Letters of the Nun Eshinni

by James C. Dobbins

Eshinni (1182–1268?), a Buddhist nun and the wife of Shinran (1173–1262), the celebrated founder of the True Pure Land, or Shin, school of Buddhism, was largely unknown until the discovery of a collection of her letters in 1921. In this study, James C. Dobbins, a leading scholar of Pure Land Buddhism, has made creative use of these letters to shed new light on life and religion in medieval Japan. He provides a complete translation of the letters and an explication of them that reveals the character and flavor of early Shin Buddhism. Readers will come away with a new perspective on Pure Land scholarship and a vivid image of Eshinni and the world in which she lived.

After situating the ideas and practices of Pure Land Buddhism in the context of the actual living conditions of thirteenth-century Japan, Dobbins examines the portrayal of women in Pure Land Buddhism, the great range of lifestyles found among medieval women and nuns, and how they constructed a meaningful religious life amid negative stereotypes. He goes on to analyze aspects of medieval religion that have been omitted in our modern-day account of Pure Land and tries to reconstruct the religious assumptions of Eshinni and Shinran in their own day. A prevailing theme that runs throughout the book is the need to look beyond idealized images of Buddhism found in doctrine to discover the religion as it was lived and practiced.

## Betsuin Dharma School News: Playful Percussion & Music Activities

Om mani padme o—m ma-ni, om mani padme hum..... reverberated through the Temple Annex during the Playful Percussion session conducted by one of the Department of Education's Artists in the Schools, percussionist and music educator, Michael Wall. This was an encore visit by Michael, who has conducted two previous sessions with our Honolulu Dharma School families.

Our morning began with a service conducted by our newest minister, Reverend Joshin Kamuro. During his Dharma talk, he shared his background and experiences with us. We were happy to get to know him a little better. Then the sangha divided into two groups—2nd grade and above remained in the Temple Annex for a session with Michael. The younger students (1st grade and below) and parents went to the Social Hall for music and fun activities led by Laura Nakasone, with help from Betsuin Preschool teachers, Faith Takenaka and Doris Fujiwara.

Michael began his session with an icebreaker in which everyone had a chance to get to know four or five different people and share something for which they are thankful. Then Michael taught the group a different pattern of beats and movements involving river rocks while the group sat in a circle. Grab—click—pass—clap was the group's chant as the river rocks were passed around to the right, then to the left, then alternating right and left. What fun it was to learn a rhythmical beat and work together to move the rocks around the circle. There was some interactive sharing of observations to end the session.

Downstairs in the Social Hall, the younger group had lots of fun with musical activities which began with the reading of the story, "If You're Happy and You Know It." In this a sing-along action book by Jane Cabrera, the students could follow examples of playful animals - such as clapping hands like a monkey, stamping feet like an elephant, roaring out loud like a lion, saying squeak squeak like a mouse, jumping around like a frog and finally asserting they were happy by shouting, "We Are!" This was followed by an echo response song entitled "Echo Me." Other fun numbers in-

Debbie Kubota

cluded "Rainbows Rock," "The Wheels on the Bus," "Shakey, Shakey Eggs" using little egg shaped shakers, "The Body Boogie," "The Hokey Pokey," and "Freeze." The session came to a close with the gatha, "Buddha Loves You" and the restful "Lullaby."

The day culminated in a lunch provided by the Honolulu Dharma School Teachers Association—sandwiches, salad, chips and dessert. What a wonderful day of music, merriment, fun and fellowship!

### Upcoming Dharma School Events:

**April 10** - Betsuin and Oahu Dharma Schools will sing for the program following the Hawaii Buddhist Council Hanamatsuri Service at Higashi Hongwanji.

**April 16-17** - Statewide Dharma Educators' Conference (Dharma Con) at the Hilo Sangha Hall

**April 24** - Eshinni/Kakushinni Day with Dharma School conducting the service—emcee, offering of flowers and candles, songs during service

**May 1** - Honolulu Dharma Schools Keiki Day—visit to Wahiawa Hongwanji for service and fellowship



# In Memoriam FEBRUARY 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

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2/3 ARIZUMI, Peggy Hisae (91)       | 2/21 NISHIKAWA, Bessie Kikuyo (84) |
| 2/6 AMODO, Fumi Y. (93)             | 2/22 FUKUSHIMA, Masuo (92)         |
| 2/8 OTSUKA, Tomoyo (100)            | 2/22 HONG, Dean Sheng Shan (76)    |
| 2/8 TADA, Laura Tengan (96)         | 2/22 TAMURA, Betty Kikue (97)      |
| 2/11 KOBAYASHI, Lily Fumi (87)      | 2/23 KOHARA, Arthur Akira (88)     |
| 2/11 WAKAFUJI, James Ichiro (83)    | 2/26 MATSUI, Ritsuyo (99)          |
| 2/12 SAKAKIDA, Cherry Mieko (98)    | 2/26 TAKAYAMA, Fred Akinobu (98)   |
| 2/13 WATANABE, Maurice Tadashi (97) | 2/28 ASAMOTO, Arthur Setsuo (76)   |
| 2/17 MATSUDA, June Satoko (96)      | 2/28 SAKAMOTO, Aiko H. (94)        |
| 2/18 MIYAHIRA, Dennis Jiro (72)     | 2/28 WATANABE, Clara Yoshie (95)   |

## Adult Ukulele Club



Two  
Thurs.  
a Month  
at 10 AM  
Call the  
Betsuin office  
for more info!

**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!

**Bazaar**

**Thrift Shop**  
**Plants**  
**Bake shop**  
**Shave Ice**

**Fresh Fruits  
and Vegetables**

**KC Waffle Dogs**

**Donations Welcomed!**

Don't forget your coupons!

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 536-7045**



and request a home visit.

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

# Betsuin BWA News

## Bwa Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service Day: April 24th

The founder of Jodo Shinshu sect is Shinran Shonin. Eshinni was his wife and Kakushinni was the youngest of their six children. Eshinni was born in Niigata Prefecture in 1182 and married Shinran Shonin in about year 1210. We know of Eshinni only through the 10 letters that she wrote to Kakushinni. The letters were discovered in Hongwanji archives in 1921. She died in Niigata at age 89. Eshinni served Shinran with dedication all through his years. Kakushinni took care of her father until he passed away at the age of 90. After Shinran's death Kakushinni continued propagating his teachings into today's Hongwanji.

Ten years after Shinran's death Kakushinni built a Memorial Hall for his remains, and this was the begin-

ning of the Ohtani Mausoleum in Kyoto.

In 1978 at the world BWA convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, a resolution was passed to conduct annual services in memory of Eshinni. In 2002 the world BWA passed a resolution to honor Kakushinni, therefore, now we honor both at the same service and this year our service falls on Sunday, April 24th.

For all BWA members as well as others, this is a very important and significant service honoring both women who propagated Shinran's teachings, therefore, we hope many of you will attend the service.

For Hawaii Betsuin BWA, this service is doubly important, because the

Fujiko Motobu

Dharma School students and families, under the supervision of Laura Nakasone, will take the lead in conducting the service with the BWA members. The Dharma school students are our future Buddhist leaders in our community and the world. We honor them and appreciate their participation. Their concept of attending the services as families and participating together is indeed a concept that should be treasured and honored. Just listen to them sing the hymns, for they are certainly great.

Once a year, on Eshinni Day the BWA invites everyone who attends the service to donate to the Hawaii Betsuin youth programs, the Dharma School, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. A once a year collection will be made. Last year's collection was a tremendous success and we hope this year will be equally successful. Last year each of the youth organizations were given \$300.00 each.

### COMING EVENTS IN APRIL

**April 2:** Saturday morning beginning at 7:30 the BWA ladies will be making tray favors honoring Hanamatsuri: Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment. Little tray favors will be distributed to nursing homes residents. Please come and help.

**April 17:** Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar: BWA ladies need to volunteer from **April 4 through the 17:** Lots of help is needed and signup sheets are made available to all who can come and help.

**April 24** is our Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service With Dharma School

### PLAY ON WORDS

In the middle of BELIEVE is a LIE. FRIEND will come to an END. At the end, a LOVER will be but OVER. In order to FORGET, we need to GET at the lesson. Have a WIFE? Wonder IF she loves you for real? Last, but not least: ENJOY LIFE; IT HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE.

### RECIPE FOR LEMON BUTTER (frozen lemon juice available.)

Ingredients: 1 block butter (1/4 lb), 1 cup lemon juice, 4 cups sugar, 4 large eggs

Sterilize jars and lids for about 15 minutes.

1. Melt butter in large pot and set aside.
2. In a mixing bowl mix juice, beaten eggs and sugar. Mix well.
3. Add #2 into the pot of melted butter.
4. Start cooking, stirring constantly. Let it boil for about 10-12 minutes. Use your judgment and adjust heat to medium as needed.
5. Pour into the sterilized jars, cap tightly, and immediately place upside down. In about 10 minutes this will create a vacuum and eliminate the need for paraffin. This will fill about 4 eight oz. jars (or 8 four ounce jars.)

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 49 Arrow of Light Ceremony

Douglas Yanagihara, Troop 49 Boy Scout



On Saturday, February 20, 2016, the Kapiolani Chapter of the Order of the Arrow performed an Arrow of Light Ceremony for Cub Scout Pack 49. The Arrow of Light Award is the highest rank in Cub Scouting. Earning this rank, which prepares a Webelos Cub Scout to become a Boy Scout, were seven Cub Scouts.

The Arrow of Light badge is the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform when a boy graduates from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

## Next BWA Mini Market May 15th

Donations Needed  
and Appreciated



### Eshinni continued from page 3

said, 'That one which shows only rays of light is none other than Honen Shonin. He is Bodhisattva, Seishi Bosatsu.' So, I asked again, 'Who then is the other image? That is another Bodhisattva, Kannon bosatsu. He is none other than Zenshin. (Which means it was Shinran Shonin)' As soon as I heard these words, my eyes opened and I realized that is was all a dream. But I had heard that such dreams should never be revealed to others, and I also thought that no one would believe it, even if I had relayed it, so I did not tell anyone. Although I never told your father, Shinran Shonin, about the dream in which I saw him as Bodhisattva, since then I never regarded him as an ordinary man and continued to serve him." When Shinran Shonin was young, he also had a dream that he would marry a Bodhisattva. Therefore, Shinran Shonin too, believed that Eshinni was a Bodhisattva.

When we consider Shinran Shonin and Eshinni's similar dreams, we can see that each of them saw the other as Bodhisattvas, as precious and important to the existence of the other. Even though Shinran Shonin and Eshinni's life was filled with difficulties and challenges, they saw each other as Bodhisattva and treated each other respectfully. Of course, they gave strength to each other and were strengthened by Amida Buddha's teaching and the Nembutsu. Eshinni was a strong and independent woman. She was also, a woman whose heart was filled with love and gentleness.

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

- 2 Rev. Ryoso Toshima  
9 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka  
16 Rev. Hiromi Kawaji  
23 Rev. Hiromi Kawaji  
30 Rev. Shigenori Makino

**Betsuin Services**

**Asaji Service 8 am**

- 03 Betsuin Buddha Day  
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka  
10 HBC Buddha Day Service  
9:00 am at Higashi Hongwanji  
17 No Service -  
Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar  
24 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

**Adult English Services  
10:00 AM**

- 03 Betsuin Buddha Day  
Combined Service  
9:30 am – Mrs. Barbara Brennan  
10 HBC Buddha Day Service  
9:00 am at Higashi Hongwanji  
17 No Service  
Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar  
24 Eshinni Day Combined Service  
9:30 am – Rev. Jan Youth

**Dharma School  
9:00 AM**

- 03 Betsuin Buddha Day  
Combined Service  
9:30 am – Mrs. Barbara Brennan  
10 HBC Buddha Day Service  
9:00 am at Higashi Hongwanji  
17 No Service  
Taste of Hongwanji Bazaar  
24 Eshinni Day Combined Service  
9:30 am – Rev. Jan Youth

**In Memoriam**



**JANUARY 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

9/5/2015 SHIGEZAWA, Emmie Hironaka (93)

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 NAKAMURA, Seichi (92)            | 18 TSUGAWA, Tadashi (94)          |
| 4 KANEMITSU, Tomiko (84)           | 19 OKUMURA, Betty-Anne Reiko (93) |
| 5 TOMITA, Helen Yuriko (84)        | 20 FURUTA, Harry Toshio (86)      |
| 6 UMEDA, Larry Yasuhiro (86)       | 20 TOMITA, Kenneth Kaname (88)    |
| 7 HABU, Lorraine Teruko (95)       | 23 MIYAZAKI, Harold Susumu (72)   |
| 15 SEKIGUCHI, Alma Masako (90)     | 28 SATO, Ichiye (101)             |
| 15 HIRONAKA, Stephen Tsutomu (72)  | 28 IKEDA, Alice Mitsue (92)       |
| 16 KIMURA, Roy Kunimitsu (73)      | 30 KOIZUMI, Sueko Yoshida (86)    |
| 17 KINOSHITA, Robert Norihide (85) |                                   |

February 2016 In Memoriams on page 5

**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**

- 07 Hale Nani – Rev. Hasebe  
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Tomioka  
08 Hale Pulama Mau – Rev. Kamuro  
14 Maluhia – Rev. Kamuro  
Liliha – Rev. Hasebe  
22 Leahi – Rev. Hagio  
28 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kaufmann



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