



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

Vol. 71, No. 5
MAY 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

Hawaii Betsuin to Observe Gotan-e Service

May 14 at 7:00 PM & May 15 at 9:30 AM

The Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin cordially invites members and friends to attend the Gotan-e Service to commemorate the birth of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

Shinran Shonin was born on May 21, 1173 in Kyoto and passed away on January 16, 1263 at age 90. Early in his life, he struggled to find the way to be free from his passions, which overwhelmed him. He endured physical and mental hardships and never ran away.



Shinran Shonin

After 20 long years of practice on Mr. Hiei, he realized he could not get rid of all those passions. Then Shinran Shonin decided to descend the mountain and was able to meet his true Master, Honen Shonin. Under Honen Shonin's guidance, Shinran Shonin encountered the Pure Land teaching, which is a path to save everybody.

It is really difficult for us to see our own desire, greed or ignorance, but Shinran Shonin faced those passions. He was the one who was not afraid to go deep into the fire of passions. Because of his persistent search to find the truth for everyone, we are able to encounter the Nembutsu teaching now.



Rev. Shinji Kawagoe

This year, we are fortunate to have Rev. Shinji Kawagoe, a resident minister of Hamakua. He serves four temples, Honomu, Papaikou, Honohina and Papaaloa. Rev. Kawagoe was born in Yamaguchi prefecture. He entered Nihon University and majored in engineering. Then he entered Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin (Jodo Shinshu missionary) and worked at Nishi Hongwanji. In 2013, he moved to Hawaii and was assigned to Hilo Betsuin. From 2014 to the present, he has been the resident minister of Hamakua.

Please do not miss this wonderful opportunity
to hear Rev. Kawagoe's message!!

Dharma Message: "Reflections on Graduation" Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

It is really wonderful to see students receiving their diplomas and to listen to their messages at graduation ceremonies. When I attended those ceremonies last year, family, friends and relatives were taking pictures, laughing and crying. Children have grown up not only physically, but also mentally and spiritually. As a result of their effort and the support of many others, they were able to welcome their day of graduation. It is also so nice to see students show their appreciation to their families and their families, in return, show their happiness, love, excitement. Congratulations! I noticed people calling out to their children. Especially, when their child's name was called, families, friends, and relatives shouted, screamed, made noises, blew

whistles and applauded. The first time I heard the screaming I was so surprised. I still remember my friends told me this is the way of graduation ceremonies in America.

While observing the graduation and hearing the "Screaming," I realized that, people immediately responded to a certain name and they didn't pay much attention to other names. Of course, people were there to see their children, so they expressed their congratulations to them only. They know their children's names and as soon as their name was called, they responded with joy and enthusiasm.

I have some observations to share with you. First of all, we like to express our love. We respond only to our own children and not to others. This is natural for each of us, to show our love. However, it means that our love is poured out to only people whom we care about. During the graduation ceremony, I saw parents taking pictures of their child using cell phones but they didn't realize their arms and bodies taking the picture, may have blocked other parents from seeing their own children. Other people also have a special person in their lives. We can't just think of our own special person.

When our love is expanded to include all beings without discrimination and is expressed to all, that kind of love is Buddha's love and compassion. Amida Buddha's great compassion is unconditionally embracing all people and all forms of life as if they were Buddha's own children. By realizing his great compassion, it sheds light on our own love and it transforms our love into thoughtful love for all others.

Another observation is about names. As I mentioned, during the ceremony, every time their child's name was called, the



family immediately responded to the name. I believe as soon as they heard their children's names, they recognized it, smiled and "screamed" with a heart of joy and happiness. Don't you think it is interesting that the joy, happiness, and smiles occur by just hearing the name? This means each name is not just only a name but also brings to mind their face, love and memories of many things they have been sharing together. Hence, by hearing the names, we receive many things.

□

Amida Buddha manifests all virtues and vows into the name, Namo Amida Butsu. All people who hear the name are embraced by great compassion and are filled with joy. Here, the Buddha's name itself is Amida Buddha and it manifests the great compassion which totally embraces everyone with a great love like parents. As if you were hearing your mother's gentle voice in her arms, Buddha's calling voice is always with us. So, Amida Buddha vowed and affirmed that his name shall be heard by everybody and all who hear the name shall be grasped by Buddha's love and compassion, never to be abandoned. In other words, whenever you are, wherever you are, no matter how old you are and whatever happens in your lives, Buddha's great compassion sustains you. It is our guidance 24 hours a day, every moment in our lives.

Namo Amida Butsu



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, Kimiko 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.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 49 Aiea Loop Trail

From Friday, March 18 through Sunday, March 20, about two dozen Troop 49 Boy Scouts camped at Keaiwa Heiau State Recreation Area located at the top of Aiea Heights. On Saturday morning, we were surprised to have our campsite flooded by joggers participating in a "Leprechaun Run." Fortunately, they were done when we set off on the 4.8-mile trail that runs along the ridge on the west side of Halawa Valley and offers views from Pearl Harbor (Pu'uloa) and the Wai'anae Range to Honolulu and Diamond Head (Le'ahi). As it was a sunny day and the trail was dry, we took a leisurely hike. The trail was extremely muddy and we were totally drenched by the rain showers to the dismay of parents picking us up. Many of the younger Scouts joined us on this camp and worked on First Aid, Totin' Chip, Firem'n Chit and other Boy Scout handbook requirements. I'm sure they had fun while earning these requirements.

Douglas Yanagihara, Troop 49 Boy Scout



Troop 49 Boy Scouts falling in to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.



Practicing the teepee method of fire-building



Practicing safe axe handling for a Totin' Chip requirement.

Scouts on the Aiea Loop Trail!



Betsuin Dharma School News:



Since the middle of February, the Betsuin Dharma School students and families have been busy exercising their vocal chords and singing on key to practice songs for two events.

On Sunday, April 10, the Betsuin Dharma School sangha was joined by students and families of Jikoen and Moiliili as the Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma Schools performed at the Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day Service program at Higashi Hongwanji. They sang "Living Gratefully" and "Arigatai" as part of the program in the Social Hall immediately following the service.

Reverend Yuika Hasebe, Wayne and Jovie Yoshioka, and Debbie Kubota represented the Betsuin Dharma School at Dharma-Con 2016: "Touched by Kindness" held on April 16-17 at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin Sangha Hall. This weekend conference was sponsored by the Hongwanji Council and United Buddhist Women's Association of



"Weave a Lei of Kindness." What a valuable weekend of fellowship, learning and sharing!

The Eshinni/Kakushinni Day Service on Sunday, April 24 was

Hawaii Island. Many interesting and fun workshops were held including "Pen a Song of Kindness," "Buddhist Values in Literature," "Live in a Kinder and Healthier Hawaii," and

Debbie Kubota

coordinated by Laura Nakasone, Betsuin Dharma School Supervisor. Dharma School students helped with key roles during the service—Douglas Yanagihara and Chika Matsumoto served as emcees, Amy Yonamine and Talin Giang offered flowers, Emma Yonamine and Vincent Saito offered candles, Caden Matsumoto, Maddie Okuda, Naho Umitani and Byron and Cora Saito were ushers.

Dharma School students and families sang several songs during the service — "Arigatai," "This Day of Peace," "Living Gratefully" and "Peace is a Seed." They led the congregation in the gatha, "Do the Good You Know," which has always been a favorite. The songs "Living Gratefully" and "Peace is a Seed" are original songs composed by a Dharma School parent. The lyrics for "Peace is a Seed" were penned by Megan Sakata, a junior at Pacific Buddhist Academy, whose "Peace is a Seed" poem was the ninth grade winner in the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Poetry Contest.

Earlier this month, we held our Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma Schools Keiki Day event at Wahiawa Hongwanji on Sunday, May 1. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, food and fun with the Wahiawa sangha. Stay tuned to next month's Goji for more details on this fantastic event!

Dharma School 2016 Graduate Luncheon

*Tickets
available
at the
Betsuin
Office!*

STAR WARS

*Sunday,
June 5, 2016
11:00 AM
in the
Social Hall*

*Please join
the celebration
for seniors:*

*Brittny Fujihara
Logan Matsuoka
Aaron Shimoda
Randi Shioi
Jenna Tom
Douglas Yanagihara*

Adult Ukulele Club



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

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**



Mahalo
to everyone,
volunteers, those
who donated items
and shoppers,
who made the
Taste of Hongwaji a
BIG SUCCESS!



Betsuin BWA News and Events

MAY 1: (Sunday) General Meeting #2

beginning at 11:00 in the Hondo.

After a busy, hectic and successful Bazaar which took place on April 17th the ladies can take a little breather, for June and July will be busy months again. Bon dances will take place at Hawaii Betsuin on Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25. The tsukemono crew will be busy making various kinds of tsukemono for sale at the bon dance. Herbert Yasukochi will again be busy harvesting his magical and beautiful daikon for us. The Boutique sale will be available too, and the devoted BWA ladies will be busy with all the preparations that go on prior to the sales as well as on the evenings of the events.

Lots of help will be needed, so don't hesitate to lend your hand.

Calling All Bakers!

Once again, the temple humbly asks for donations of baked goods for our 2016 bon dance to be held on Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25, 29016.

Donations of cookies, brownies, party mix, finger snacks, etc are greatly appreciated. If pre-bagging your items, please label contents and bag according to at least a \$2 price point. (ie. bag 4 large cookies or 6-8 small ones). We will need baked goods for both Friday and Saturday nights.

Please bring your donations to the temple office during the week of the bon dance. All proceeds from the baked goods will go directly to the Hawaii Betsuin. Baked goods are always #1 in popularity and always the first thing to sell out, so please get out your favorite recipes and bake away. We truly appreciate the support!

MAY 15: GOTAN E (SHIN-RAN SHONIN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION):

The office staff, Stacy and Colleen, and custodian Elmer have been most helpful in accommodating with the BWA's wishes in exhibiting the purple curtain in front of the temple entrance and getting Shinran's life size statue out on to the stage for Gotan E. In America, in contrast to Japan, birthdays are a lot more meaningful than the dates of the deceased and more celebrations take place for birthdays. Drivers passing Pali Highway really notice the purple curtain when it is displayed.

Fortunately, we also have Mrs. Okano's flower arrangement class participating by exhibiting their specialty in flower arrangements. The calligraphy or Shodo students are also

Fujiko Motobu

exhibiting their fine skills in writing meaningful Japanese kanji and other writing skills.

If the flower arrangement and calligraphy samples stir you into wanting to learn, please join the groups. The flower arrangement class meets on Wednesdays right after lunch, and the calligraphy class meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 9:30 to about 11:00 a.m. Mrs. Michiko Okano is the instructor for both classes. See her or call the office and register or just stop by.

MAY 15, MINI MARKET: This undertaking has been of tremendous success for the BWA. Thanks to all the donors as well as to all the buyers, we have been able to have at least 4 mini markets each year. Please continue to support us.

The money that we make is never used for us to eat, drink, and be merry. The money is always used to support the many needed activities and organizations of the temple as well as of the community.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

of the various schools and classes of Hongwanji will be held soon. PBA students will be graduating on May 6, Friday at 5 pm at JCCH. We honor them with a hundred dollars. Hongwanji Mission School 8th grade graduation will take place on May 25th at 9:30 am at Hawaii Betsuin. BWA has been supporting them with a hundred dollar gift. Fort Gakuen will have its graduation on May 23 at the temple at 5 pm. Fort Gakuen gradu

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Betsuin BWA News and Events continued from page 6

ates and Dharma School graduates all are presented with individual gifts from BWA. We are indeed proud of all of these students. Congratulations!

NEW BWA MEMBERS ARE WELCOME: A long time ago there were two women's groups at Hawaii Betsuin, one was the Fujinkai, the Japanese speaking group, and the other was established by Mrs. Fujitani, the Bishop's wife for English speaking women. Thus, the Upasika Society was born. As years went by, the English speaking group became more prevalent, and the Japanese speaking group dwindled, therefore, in early 2000, the two groups merged and became known as the BWA (Buddhist women's association). In the olden days the women were not employed in jobs, so they hung around the temple a great deal of the time and helped the ministers. Therefore, there were many women of all ages at the temple. Today, the young women are all working, and only after retirement they are able to help at the temple; therefore the number of years that they can support the

temple is rather limited.

Recently one new member joined us. Her name is Lynn Hirashima, and she said that she wanted to become a member to take the place of her mother, who was once a supporter of the now BWA. Lynn's concept is wonderful and we should nurture her idea. If all the women's daughter(s) would join the BWA, wouldn't it be great. In our American society we always thought of freedom of choice, and perhaps we as parents have given our children too much freedom and not enough guidance. Or, is it that we as parents do not know enough of our own Buddhist Jodo Shinshu teachings to guide our own children into our own heritage? Thank you, Lynn, for you have inspired us to rethink some of our own behavior and thoughts.

A NEW RELIGION CLASS TO BEGIN FRIDAY, MAY 27 AT 1:00 PM:

The Reverend Hagio will instruct a new class of Jodo Shinshu Teachings (and anything else that you want to learn about our religion or life) beginning on Friday afternoon, from 1 pm in the dining room on May 27. (If you meet then, you may be able to plan on another day and time.) With informal instruction, you will be able to ask any question which has been on your mind. It is always better to ask and get answers rather than to remain silent and be in a quandary. Please register your name in the office or else see Fujiko Motobu as soon as possible.

HOW ABOUT A JOKE? A HPD officer pulled alongside a speeding car on H3. Glancing at the car, he was surprised to see a tita knitting behind the wheel. The officer realized that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, so the officer lowered his window and yelled, "PULL OVER!" The tita yelled back. "Naaah. Dis is one scarf."

A Peek at the Bazaar held April 17th



Next BWA
Mini Market
May 15th
Donations Needed
and Appreciated



Hongwanji Radio Programs MAY 2016

KZOO 1210 AM

Japanese Language Saturday at 7:30 AM

- 7 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 14 Rev. Mariko Nishiyama
- 21 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 28 Rev. Shinji Kawagoe

Betsuin Services Asaji Service 8 am

- 01 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 08 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
- 15 Gotan-e Service
Rev Shinji Kawagoe
- 22 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
- 29 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Adult English Services 10:00 AM

- 01 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
- 08 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 15 Gotan-e
Combined Service 9:30 am
Rev. Shinji Kawagoe
- 22 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 29 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

May 14 – 7:00 pm Gotan-e
Evening Service with
Rev. Shinji Kawagoe

Dharma School 9:00 AM

- 01 No Service
Keiki Day Wahiawa Hongwanji
- 08 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 15 Gotan-e
Combined Service 9:30 am
Rev. Shinji Kawagoe
- 22 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
- 29 Mrs. Nannette Ganotisi

In Memoriam



MARCH 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

3 TAKAMOTO, Thomas Takametsu (72)	21 ISHIHARA, Clarence Masaru (90)
5 IWAMOTO, Nancy Hatsuko (92)	21 TAKARA, Masao (82)
5 NISHIYAMA, Dorothy Kazuko (80)	25 KAWAMOTO, Sharon Shizue (67)
5 OKATA, Yoshito (83)	25 TANAKA, Glorian Kiyoko (93)
8 ASHMAN, Katsumi (61)	25 TARI, Dianne Yoshie (87)
11 DOUE, Stephen Masao (94)	26 OUYE, Gerall Ikuo (61)
14 KARIOKA, Frances Sadame (90)	27 IWANAGA, Dennis M. (71)
17 MASAKI, Toshiko (106)	27 KUWATA, Tad Tadafumi (96)
19 SEIGAKU, Larry Fumio (89)	31 IMOTO, John Atsuo (73)
	31 KOBAYASHI, Albert Akira (68)

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

- 05 Hale Nani – Rev. Hasebe
- Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Tomioka
- 12 Maluhia – Rev. Kamuro
- Liliha – Rev. Hasebe
- 13 Hale Pulama Mau – Rev. Kamuro
- 26 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kaufmann
- 27 Leahi – Rev. Hagio



The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of unobstructed 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