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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

Betsuin to Observe Shinran's Birthday May 21st With Combined Service

The birthday of the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, Shinran Shonin, is commemorated during the month of May in all Jodo Shinshu temples in Japan and worldwide, including Hawaii and the US mainland. Known as Gotan-e, this is one of the six major services observed annually by Jodo Shinshu temples to honor and pay respect to Shinran Shonin.



Shinran Shonin lived during the age of Mappo and diligently practiced the asceticism of the Tendai tradition for twenty years on Mt. Hiei. However, he finally came to the realization that such rigorous practices did not lead to his awakening and liberation. Shinran Shonin was troubled by his own blind passions or "bonno" and, despite twenty years of ascetic practices, he could not attain the enlightenment he was seeking. After undergoing a hundred-day retreat at Rokkaku-do temple in Kyoto, the Bodhisattva Kannon appeared to him in a dream in the form of Prince Shotoku directing him to see Honen Shonin. Shinran descended from Mt. Hiei and became a disciple of Honen. During the first year of his discipleship with Honen Shonin, Shinran, at age 29, attained enlightenment or salvation through the Vow of Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Light and Life. This attainment of salvation through relying solely on the power of Amida's vow and discarding all sundry practices became the core of Shinran's teachings throughout his life. Essentially Shinran said that because we are all defiled by greed, hatred and delusion, we have no chance of gaining enlightenment by ourselves and that by entrusting ourselves totally to Amida Buddha without any calculation or doubt, we are

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Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki to be Gotan-e Speaker



Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1955. He graduated Waipahu High School 1973 and graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1977. Among his previous places of employment, he was an instructor at the University of Hawaii Department of Electrical Engineering and was a computer consultant from 1980 to 1994. Rev.

Kuniyuki was also employed as an instructor at University of Hawaii at Hilo in the Continuing Education and Community Service program. He completed Tokudo in 1994 and graduated from Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin and earned Kyoshi in 1996. Upon his return to Hawaii, he was assigned as an Associate Minister at the Hawaii Betsuin, then as the Resident Minister responsible for the 4-Temple Council, Honomu, Honohina, Papaalooa and Papaikou Hongwanjis. In 2002 he was assigned as the Resident Minister for the Wahiawa Hongwanji, and in 2012 he became the Director of the Buddhist Study Center & Office of Buddhist Education.

Dharma Message: “The Touching Story of Helen Keller and Hisako Nakamura”

My son, Yuma, who is in the 3rd grade at the Hongwanji Mission School had to read the book titled “Helen Keller” by Margaret Davidson and write a book report as homework. He read the book of 90 pages chapter by chapter every day and finished reading it in a week. When I asked him for his impressions of the book, my son said, “Helen Keller was a really great woman. She graduated from a good university although she was not able to see and hear. She worked so hard to study. And her teacher, Anne



Helen Keller

Sullivan was also a great woman.” My son was very much impressed by Ms. Keller and Mrs. Sullivan. His enthusiasm motivated me to read that book and I learned more about Helen Keller. I am still moved no matter how many times I read the dramatic scene where little Helen touched water. She became aware for the first time at the age of 6 that everything had a name, and that she also had a name. The book ended with a quote of Ms. Keller’s words, “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be

seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” As Ms. Keller said, we pay so much attention to what we see and touch, that we tend to neglect what we feel in our hearts and think in our minds.

Ms. Keller visited Japan 3 times, in 1937, 1948, and 1955. When she visited Japan for the first time, she met Mrs. Hisako Nakamura. Ms. Keller said to Mrs. Nakamura, “You lived a tougher life but you accomplished more things than I did.” Mrs. Nakamura lost her hands and legs at the age of 3 from frost bite and a fever which followed. Although she didn’t have her hands and legs, she lived in a positive way through the Nembutsu teaching. Mrs. Nakamura presented Ms. Keller a gift, a doll, which she had made herself, using her mouth and teeth. Mrs. Nakamura said, “When we work at something in which we put all our heart, there is neither ocean nor national boundary. The sacred and the true mind of human beings overcomes many obstacles in life.” When they

Rev. Joshin Kamuro

met for the first time, they each felt deep sympathy and shed tears. Both Ms. Keller’s and Mrs. Naka-



mura’s lives were full of difficulties and struggles. But, they could understand each other’s feelings beyond language and national borders because of exchanging what was in their true hearts. Mrs. Nakamura said at the end of her life, “Though without hands or legs, I am allowed to live this life. How precious.” She found that preciousness of her life, regardless of her lost hands and legs.

Reading about Ms. Helen Keller and Mrs. Hisako Nakamura, I learned the importance of what we feel in our hearts and minds. As shown in Mrs. Nakamura’s experience, Nembutsu practitioners who are embraced in Buddha’s compassion will be given peace of mind and the ability to accept reality, regardless of their circumstances. Let us continue saying the Nembutsu in joy and gratitude for the Buddha’s compassion. Namo Amida Butsu



Hisako Nakamura



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@hawaiiibetsuin.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

Fujiko Motobu

COMING EVENTS FOR MAY:

Come join us and have a nice day.

GRADUATION: A

BWA representative will be present at the PBA (Pacific Buddhist Academy) commencement exercise, the Hongwanji Mission 8th grade graduation ceremony, and Fort Gakuen graduation exercise. All of the students have studied hard and they all deserve our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for accomplishing their educational goals. A gift will be presented to a recipient from all three schools. Congratulations.



BWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETING #2 for year 2017 will be held on Sunday, May 2nd after the 10 o'clock service, beginning at 11:00 am in the social hall. President Wendie Yumori and her committee members are hard at work in planning an enjoyable get-together with all of the BWA members who can attend. It will be an informative and enjoyable gathering, so please make every effort to attend our BWA general membership meeting #2 for this year.

May 14, the second Sunday, will be MOTHER'S DAY. Every day ought to be Mother's Day, but May 14 is scheduled as the special day to honor all mothers. All mothers are like Buddha, selfless, kind hearted, generous and loving people. Not only mothers, but grandmothers, aunts, friends, all females are honored on this special day.

GOTAN E: BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF SHINRAN SHONIN ON SUNDAY, MAY

21: The human size, cedar wood statue of Shinran Shonin will be displayed on the stage for Gotan-e. It should be a welcome sight for parents and little ones to have their pictures taken with Shinran Shonin.

SAGARYU ikebana flower arrangement and Japanese Calligraphy will be exhibited in the social hall on Gotan E service day. The displays are done by students of Mrs. Michiko Okano. They are beautifully done, so enjoy them.

SUMIE EXHIBITION AT CITY HALL:

May 8 through 19th by the students of Mrs. Sachie Saigusa. As the Sumie Society of Hawaii marks its fifteenth year of exhibition at Honolulu Hale, it is a good time to look back at our distinguished history. The Sumie Society was established on June 13, 2001, under the leadership of Sensei Sachie Saigusa (president) and the late Rev. Takamaro Saigusa (vice president). Original officers of the organization were Betty Yamamoto, Shigeko Miyashiro, Kazuko Choy, Byron Saigusa, Terry Kaide, Doris Toda, and Midori Lisenberg, and the advisors were Dr. Margaret Oda and Byron Saigusa. Art instruction for the Hawaii Betsuin began in 2001. In 2002 and 2003, the Betsuin students' art work was exhibited during the bon mairi week in the social hall. When bon mairi week was rearranged, the sumie art exhibit was discontinued at the Betsuin.

The 2017 exhibit will be held at Honolulu Hale, City hall, from May 8 noon to Friday, May 19. It is free admission, so take some time to enjoy some spectacular art work this year. It is hard to believe that our seniors are very talented in art work, calligraphy, and flower arrangements. Go and observe them for yourself. Perhaps you may want to join the classes.

LAUGHTER IS GREAT FOR YOU:

TV is the best thing for me. I can watch all kinds of sports that I would never be able to watch in real life. One that I like is ice hockey. It seems like a rough game, sliding and swinging the long hockey stick. Did you know that the first testicular guard, the "cup", was used in Hockey in 1874, some 143 years ago? The first helmet was used in 1974, a hundred years after the "cup". That means it took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important and needs to be protected.

HERE'S ANOTHER GOOD LAUGH:

Jill hears that milk baths will make her beautiful, so she leaves a note for her milkman asking for 15 gallons of milk. When the milkman reads the note, he thinks there must be a mistake, so he knocks on the door. Jill answers the door, and the milkman says, "I found your note to leave 15 gallons of milk. Did you mean 1.5 gallons?" Jill replies, "No. I want 15 gallons. I am going to fill my bathtub with milk." "Pasturized?" asks the milkman. "No" says Jill. "Just up to my boobs."

From the Green Team

It Takes a Sangha: The Story of the 100,000 Cups

Once upon a time not long ago, Kerry Kiyohara was the guest of honor at a shabu-shabu sayonara party at Moiliili Hongwanji before departing for Japan to continue his ministerial studies. At the party were 10-oz. paper cups labeled Marukame Udon. Betsuin's Green Team convener, David Atcheson, happened to be sitting near James Castillo of Bridge America LLC, who had brought the cups to Moiliili. James told David that there were actually 100,000 cups that an associate of his wanted to remove from a warehouse to make space — by donating them or, if necessary, throwing them away.

With representatives from Hongwanji temples throughout Hawaii soon to arrive at Betsuin for Giseikai, Dave asked James if it would be OK to see which temples might like some free cups. James said please do. At the

assembly, an announcement was made and a sign-up sheet posted. Before long, all 100 cases of cups were spoken for!

Now the tricky part: distributing those many cases of cups (and lids!) sitting at a warehouse in Kapolei. A key piece of the puzzle was Betsuin President Jerry Tamamoto's offer to pick up a load of cups and bring them to his Ship to Hawaii warehouse in Iwilei, where Honolulu-side temples could pick up their cases. Ship to Hawaii also facilitated shipments to neighbor island temples. For other Oahu temples, James and Bridge America arranged to get a load of cups to Waipahu Hongwanji, which offered to be a second distribution point. Along the way, associates of both Jerry and James donated additional in-kind support.

The Green Team is glad to share this story of the extended Hongwanji sangha in action, rescuing 100,000 cups and preventing the waste of the precious trees, water, and energy they embody. With gratitude to James, Jerry, Waipahu Hongwanji, and all who participated in this effort! Namu Amida Butsu



Submitted by David Atcheson

Please join our week day Morning Service!
Hawaii Betsuin opens its door to everybody who would like to chant sutra.

Date: Monday - Saturday
Time: 8:00 to 8:30 AM
Sutra: Shoshinge

Shoshinge was written by our founder, Shinran Shonin, to encapsulate the teachings of Jodo Shinshu. It is an important sutra for Jodo Shinshu followers and encourages all to entrust themselves in Amida Buddha.

You are invited to join the Hawaii Betsuin ministers every morning from 8 to 8:30 AM to chant Shoshinge, the Gatha of True Faith.

Please feel free to join any time.

No reservation is needed. Walk-ins are welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact the Betsuin Office.

**Mahalo
to Everyone:
volunteers, those who
donated items and the
shoppers,
who made the
Taste of
Hongwanji a
BIG
SUCCESS!**

**Don't Forget!
You can listen to
pre-recorded
10:00 AM services
from the Betsuin on
KZOO 1210 AM on
the radio dial
Sunday mornings
at 10:00 AM**

Mark Your Calendars!

O'Bon, O'Bon
It's Festival Time!

Hawaii Betsuin 2017

Bon Dance

June 23 & 24

Fri. & Sat.

6:00-10:30 pm

Everyone Welcome!



Earth Day Observed At The Betsuin!

On Sunday, April 23rd, we observed Earth Day with a special service and fair in the social hall after the service. The following photos highlight some of the day's activities!



Dharma School students and parents waiting to place green plants on the altar in recognition of Earth Day.



Service speakers, David Atcheson (Green Team) and Doorae Shin (Kokua Hawaii Foundation) at the Green Team table. Mottainai bags were available to carry your cup and eating utensils for refreshments each Sunday!



PHOTOS BY RUTH TOKUMI

Shinran's Birthday service continued from page 1

assured of birth in the Pure Land. Shinran stressed absolute reliance on the other power of Amida's vow. One's own efforts are useless in achieving salvation. Even faith in the Nembutsu arises, not through the individual's own efforts or virtue, but is bestowed by Amida's grace.

By sharing, teaching and being an example for many ordinary common people, Shinran's experience of spiritual awakening through the workings of Amida Buddha's Vow spread the Nembutsu teachings that made the Buddhism of his time available to all classes of people, not just for religious orders and the ruling class of Japanese society. During the time of his active ministry in the Kanto area of Japan and thereafter, Shinran Shonin continued spreading the Nembutsu teaching, even in his later years, until he passed away in Kyoto in 1263. The temple of the original vow, the Hongwanji, was established years later

after Shinran's death and has since grown to become the largest sect of Japanese Buddhism in Japan and other parts of the world.

In honor, recognition, and respect, we celebrate Shinran Shonin's birthday this month of May and reflect with gratitude his sharing and spreading the Nembutsu teaching which has ever since affected countless numbers of people and has survived on to our present age. Happy Birthday Shinran sama.

We will observe Gotan-e at the Hawaii Betsuin with the **Gotan-e Otaiya on Saturday May 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm and on May 21st with a combined service at 9:30 am.** The guest speaker will be Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, director of the Buddhist Study Center. Please join us in commemorating the birth, life and accomplishment of our founder, Shinran Shonin. Namu Amida Butsu.

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!

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 23 and 24, 2017



Donations of cookies, brownies, party mix, finger snacks, etc are greatly appreciated. If pre-bagging your items, please label contents and bag according to 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!

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 Dharma School News

March 26 - Taste of Hongwanji

Debbie Kubota

Dharma School Taiko Group

The taiko drummers kicked off the day's festivities by inviting the bazaar chairs - Jerry Tamamoto, Irene No-hara and Wendy Harmon - up to the stage to play the taiko drums in sync with the beat played by leader, Jovie Yoshioka. It was great to see them pounding out the drum rhythms on stage. Then the taiko group played 3 pieces. The first was "Jan Ken Po", an interactive piece in which taiko players went out to the crowd to play Jan Ken Po, and rewarded players with snacks. The next piece was "Laulima", a festive piece which features the ethnic diversity of the islands, with drum beats and dance moves depicting the Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian and Filipino cultures. The finale was "Matsuri", a festival piece, with jammers, Alan Kubota, Wayne Yoshioka and Debbie Kubota, adding their original touches to the performance.

Singing by Dharma School Students, Parents & Teachers

The Dharma School singers, accompanied by ukulele players Caden and Chika Matsumoto and Cameron Kubota, serenaded the crowd by singing 4 songs. The first 2 were original compositions: "Living Gratefully" and "Peace is a Seed." Then they sang "Arigatai" with hand gestures and ended their set with "If You're Happy and You Know It" with many different activities, including roar out loud and kiss kiss. At the end, the

singers sang "If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it, if you're happy and you know it shout, WE ARE! And THEY WERE!"

Please join us!

•**May 7** - Sports Day / Undokai - Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma Schools Activity together with Cub Scout Pack 49 at HMS



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

5/6 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
5/13 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
5/20 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
5/27 Rev. Tatsuo Muneto

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8:00 AM

07 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
14 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
21 Gotan-e Service
Rev. Joshin Kamuro
28 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

07 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
14 Rev. Sol Kalu
21 **Gotan-e Family Service 9:30 am**
Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki
28 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

Nicchu Service 1:00 PM

07 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
14 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
21 **Gotan-e Service**
Rev. Yuika Hasebe 9:30 am
28 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Dharma School Service 9 am

07 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
14 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
21 **Gotan-e Family Service 9:30 am**
Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki
28 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Gotan-e Otaiya
May 20 (Sat) Gotan-E Otaiya
(Evening Service) 7:00 pm
Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki**

In Memoriam



MARCH 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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 WAKISAKA, Masako Jane (96) | 14 MURAOKA, Louis Toshimi (88) |
| 6 FUKUMOTO, Alfred Hiroshi (99) | 16 NAKAMURA, Kiyoko (93) |
| 7 IIDA, Stanley Hiromu (81) | 16 TAKAHASHI, Haruko (98) |
| 7 KOYANAGI, Clyde Tamio (69) | 16 YONESHIGE, Edward Suteo (95) |
| 8 UCHIDA, Mitsuharu (95) | 17 SEKIYA, Phyllis Yukuyo (97) |
| 9 IZUMI, Mary Hatsue (95) | 20 HIRANO, Betty Hiroko (76) |
| 9 KANNO, Mildred Misa (96) | 22 KANEDA, Kikuye (88) |
| 9 SHIMOTSU, Ivy Akiko (91) | 26 SUZUKI, Alan Masao (65) |
| 10 ISHII, Mitsuko (100) | 28 OTOSHI, Betty Kiyoko (92) |
| 13 NISHIZUKA, Shizuichi "Slim" (91) | 29 ISHIKANE, Doris (72) |
| 14 ARAI, Teruo (90) | 31 TERAMOTO, Bunso (96) |
| 14 ESTERBROOK, Howard Yasushi (53) | |

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

- 04 Hale Nani – Rev. Kamuro
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Kaufmann
11 Maluhia – Rev. Hasebe
Liliha – Rev. Kalu
12 Kuakini – Rev. Kalu
25 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kaufmann
26 Leahi – Rev. Hagio



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-but-su.

-Shinran Shonin