



1727 Pali Highway
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GOJI

Vol. 73, No. 07 & 08



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 Annual O-bon Services

Whenever the word “O-bon” is mentioned, most people automatically think of the annual summer bon dances held in various Buddhist temples throughout the state of Hawaii and for some who have been brought up in families with strong Buddhist traditions, the O-bon season is believed to be a time when the souls or spirits of departed loved ones and ancestors return to the world of the living. With this in mind, traditional O-bon is observed by burning fires on the first and last day, in the belief that such fires light the way to welcome, and, later, guide the spirits of deceased family members back to the world of the dead at the conclusion of the Bon observance.

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, however, O-bon has come to mean a joyful gathering, or “kangi-e” in Japanese. It is a time for expressing gratitude, not only to our departed loved ones, but to our teachers, living family members and friends who have played a part in the continuation of our lives and our well being. The O-bon is also an opportunity for us to listen to the Dharma or the Teachings, especially of Amida Buddha’s boundless, all pervasive compassionate Vow that makes our rebirth in the realm of the Pure Land possible.



Our O-bon speaker for this year is Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, presently serving as Executive Assistant to the Bishop at the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters. Rev. Umitani was born in Hiroshima, Japan, and is from a temple family. He received tokudo ordination in May of 1998 and kyoshi certification in March of 2000. He first came to Hawaii in July 2001 and has served at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Kailua Hongwanji

and Makawao Hongwanji before being appointed to his current position as Executive Assistant to the Bishop in July of 2011. Rev. Umitani also is presently serving as the chaplain for the Pacific Buddhist Academy. He is married to Yoshiko Umitani and has 2 daughters, Naho and Riho.

Annual
Peace Walk
August 9th
contact the office for
complete details.

Annual
Golf Tournament
Thursday
August 10th

Ala Wai Golf Course



12 noon

Shotgun Start
Banquet
immediately
after
play ends

More Info and registration
forms available from the
Betsuin office

Dharma Message: “2017 O-bon Season: Our duty to remember...”

Rev. Sol Kalu

O-bon is a time to remember our departed loved ones, to pay our honor, respect, love and above all, express our gratitude. In my country of origin, the Philippines, we do not have O-bon but we do remember our dead ancestors and parents and relatives, once a year on Nov. 1 & 2, All Saints Day and All Souls Day in the Christian tradition. The way of remembering is different but the feeling of remembering, of giving respect, expressing gratitude and love is very much the same. What we do is go to the graveyard, clean up the headstones, say a few prayers, and for those who can afford it, they would bring offerings of food or drinks to the grave site.

Just like in the memorial services that we observe on a regular schedule, the O-bon service is a time to reflect, on our relationship as a family, and our relationship with people outside the family circle as well. It is a time for getting together, sharing experiences, and listening to the Buddha's teachings. We are reminded of the sacrifice, effort and love of our departed parents, ancestors and other relatives and people close to us that have enabled us to be living in this present moment.

The Buddha taught about the oneness of life, of interdependence, that without the help and effort of others, we are not able to live and enjoy life in the present. The causes and conditions that resulted in our coming into this world as human beings were created even before the time we were born, like a chain of events leading to our present life and if even one link of this chain had been different, the results would be different. We could have been born elsewhere, and have a different, maybe less fortunate life. We could have been born in a country where the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy here now, would not even exist, or we may not have been born at all.

Buddhism teaches us that it is difficult to be born a human being and so life is very precious. And so it behooves us to always express gratitude to our departed loved ones and ancestors for setting the conditions and causes which resulted in our living in this present moment.

The observance of O-bon is not about ancestor worship. In the Pure Land tradition of Buddhism, all our departed loved ones go to the realm of the Buddhas and become Buddhas them-

selves but they are remembered and honored, not worshipped. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is a religion of gratitude, not only for our ancestors, parents, other people, but also to Amida Buddha, whose compassion is always surrounding us. The teachings of the Buddha serve as our guide that enables us to cope with things that happen beyond our control and face the challenges of daily living with hope and courage. And we express this gratitude to the Buddha by saying the name Namu Amida Butsu, the Nembutsu, the response to the call of the Buddha of infinite life and light to take refuge and entrust in Amida, the living expression of our gratitude for the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha.



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@hawaii.betsuin.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.

GOJI STAFF:

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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.

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



Sunday
at
10:00
AM

Betsuin BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

JULY AND AUGUST: Summer is here, and the BWA does not have too many activities besides bon dance and its related activities at the end of June. July and August are relatively quiet months, but we do have the third general membership meeting scheduled for July 30th. President Wendie Yumori will plan on some sort of activity for all of you. In the month of August, the BWA ladies generally go on some sort of excursion, which use to be temple tour in the past. Plans are being made for Saturday, August 26 for an excursion to Mouna Farms Arts and Cultural Village in Waianae. We will leave the Betsuin at 8 am and arrive at Mouna Farm at 9:00 am to tour the farm. We will also attend a lecture on unique medicinal plants, women and spirituality and the significance of mother's love for the world. After a simple vegetarian lunch and departing at 12:00 pm we head for Waianae Hongwanji and returning to Betsuin at 2 pm. It should be an enlightening and exciting excursion for all. Let's all plan on going, so save Saturday, August 26th.

KEEPING OUR MINDS SHARP: As we grow older, forgetfulness is common, and we begin to worry about developing dementia. Some early signs of dementia may be eyesight problems and you have difficulty in reading. Another is a change in behavior, where you may start showing different signs of behavior, such as outburst of temper, when you were basically a very serene mild tempered person. Another behavioral change maybe when you start telling all kinds of all tales to other members. It is best to see a doctor when these behavioral changes start to occur. With

correct medication, the process may be slowed down.

In Japan a study is being done at a senior center. A humorous, comic visits the center several times a week to entertain the seniors with humorous stories. Half of the seniors stay for the entire presentation of the show at each session; and half of the seniors stay only half of the show and leave. The study is to find any significance in the amount of humor that the seniors are exposed to by listening to only half of the performance as compared to staying for the entire show.

COMPUTER ACCESS: If you are comfortable in using the computer and have easy access to one, there are lots of information that you can gather from the computer in relation to the temple doings. Perhaps the senior members are not as quick in picking up the skills in using the computer, but it is never too late to learn if you have someone who can teach you patiently.

MISERIES IN LOSS OF HEARING: Being young and active in daily living are the best things in life. One can hear well, chat with friends, sing and dance around, read and do all sorts of things that interest you. However, once you get old you realize the miseries in life. One cannot hear others when they speak, can't walk and keep up the same pace as the young ones, and because you cannot hear what is going on in the conversations, your mind starts to slow down. A request to all young ones, whenever you see an old person in your group, please remember to speak slowly and loudly and clearly to be heard and understood. Until you become old,

one cannot ever imagine the agonies that the seniors have to go through in their old life. To the ministers, please remember to speak slowly, clearly and loudly when you see an old person in the audience, otherwise, they will stop attending the services.

MINI MARKET: Thank you to all BWA members as well as supporters of the BWA mini market. Mini markets are held approximately four times a year, and each time for a definite purpose. Year 2017 mini market profits have gone to our youth groups, to our members in defraying expenses needed at out of state conventions, and mostly for the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Centennial celebration in 2018. Women come up with good ideas and are able to carry them out because of the great support that is given by all the BWA members. Thank you to all of you.

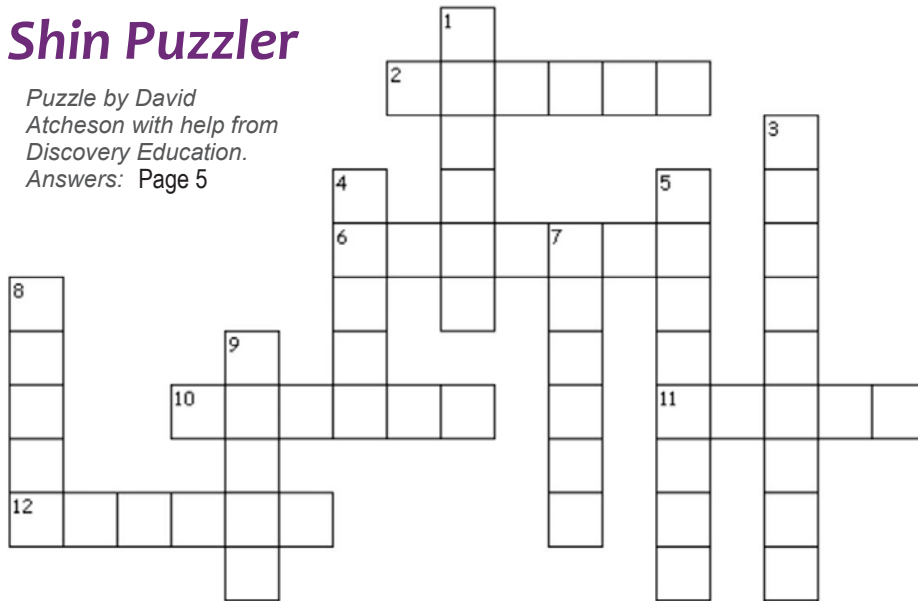
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING...."SMALL KID TIME" talks and games brought forth many memories and it was surprising to realize that people from the different islands had their own "lingo" in reciting some of the children's games. Janken Po was recited in many ways, such as "Jan-ken po aiko no sho, mama say papa say, you" "Jan-ken no mankeno saka saka po". These are what we said in Hilo, but in Wailuku Maui they had other versions. Do you recall what you said?

BWA LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS: For \$1.25 per month or \$15.00 per year, you can join our BWA organization. Females are preferred,

continued on page 4

Shin Puzzler

Puzzle by David
Acheson with help from
Discovery Education.
Answers: Page 5



Across

2. Author of "The Monk Who Dared," first name Ruth
6. Wife of Shinran
10. Last name of Betsuin minister who worked in Germany for 5 years
11. Shinran's teacher
12. The third of the Three Treasures

Down

1. A large bell rung to signal the beginning of a service
3. 2017 Hongwanji slogan says these should be open
4. Beaded string placed around hands with palms together
5. Gotan-e is a celebration of Shinran's _____.
7. Japanese term for the altar area
8. "Out of the mud grows the _____."
9. Sanskrit for song or verse; a hymn

BWA News continued from page 3

however, even a male can join our group and become an auxiliary member. General membership meetings are held four times a year, and if you want to become involved, join the executive board. Don't hesitate, join us.

HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The board is made up of 45 members, 10 are officers, 26 are board members, and 9 are ex-officios, including ministers. Of the 45 members, 15 are women and 30 men. The men outnumber the women by double. THEREFORE, the BWA is seeking more women to represent the sangha on the board. If you are interested, please see Florence Wasai right away. We need to recruit women to join the board ASAP.

HUMOR Helps Us Make New Friends And Keep Our Old Friends. Most People, No Matter What Age, Enjoy A Good Laugh:

President Calvin Coolidge invited some guests from his old home town to the white house for dinner. Worried about their table manners, the guests decided to do everything the way Coolidge did. The strategy succeeded until coffee was served. The president poured his coffee into his saucer. The guests did the same. Coolidge added sugar and cream. His guests did too. Then Coolidge bent over and put his saucer on the floor for his cat!

Last one: Why do gorillas have big nostrils? You don't know? Because they have big fingers.

Fall Craft Fair

Saturday, August 12, 2017

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin

1727 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96813

Our hope is to raise money for the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Bestuin Building Fund as 2018 will mark the Centennial of the construction of the main Temple Building. We would like to give our local artists a way to showcase their arts and crafts in our appreciation to those who have supported us throughout the many years. Donations for the Hawaii Food Bank are welcome. Herb Yasukochi's famous Bon Dance Beef Stew tickets will be pre-sold. With your help and the help from our community, we will be able to create a wonderful fair.

Betsuin Dharma School News

2017 Dharma School Grads Honored

On June 11, our 2017 Dharma School graduates were honored at a special joint service. Honorees were:

Chika Matsumoto, graduate of Pacific Buddhist Academy, who will be attending Pacific University in Oregon, majoring in Exercise Science

Tyler Onishi, graduate of St. Louis High School, who will be attending University of Hawaii - Manoa, majoring in Civil Engineering

Branden Tsuji-Jones, graduate of McKinley High School, who will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York, majoring in Electrical Engineering or Computer Science



Kylie Yamanouchi, graduate of Roosevelt High School, who will be attending University of Hawaii - Manoa, majoring in Environmental Design

After a heartfelt Dharma Message by Reverend Hasebe and entertaining slide show of the graduates prepared by Thanh Giang, gifts were presented to the graduates

by Jerry Tamamoto (Betsuin), Laura Nakasone (Dharma School), Wayne Yoshioka (High School Teacher) and Dianne Ida, Florence Wasai, Sharyn Sekine (BWA). The graduates took the stage to express their appreciation for our Betsuin sangha, then former Dharma School students, Brittny Fujihara and Colin Kubota, shared inspiring words of wisdom and insights into college life.

Following this special service, everyone gathered in the Social Hall for food, fellowship and celebration.

Please join us for Dharma School Activities this summer:

- July 16 - Fun Day Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, Kaneohe
- July 30 - TBD
- August 7 - Full Moon Hike - Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail
- August 13 - Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma Schools Registration Day at HMS
- September 6 - Full Moon Hike - Makapu'u Lighthouse Trail
- September 10 - Betsuin 100th Anniversary Service, lunch, program and Confirmation Rights

Debbie Kubota



Calling all Crafters!

Vendor Registration for the HHHB Fall Craft Fair, being held on August 12th, is now being accepted. Please see the Hawaii Betsuin website (hawaiiibetsuin.org) for a downloadable form. Vendor Registration Forms are also available at the Betsuin office. We look forward to seeing you at the Craft Fair.

Shin Puzzler Answers

1. Kansho
2. Tabrah
3. Communications
4. Nenju
5. Birthday
6. Eshinni
7. Naijin
8. Lotus
9. Gatha
10. Kamuro
11. Honen
12. Sangha

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

- 7/1 Rev. Kojun Hashimoto
7/8 Rev. Kosho Yagi
7/15 Rev. Mieko Majima
7/22 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
7/29 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8:00 AM

- 02 Obon Major Service
Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
09 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
16 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
23 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
30 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 02 Obon Major Service
Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
09 Rev. Sol Kalu
16 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
23 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
30 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Nicchu Service 1:00 PM

- 02 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
09 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
16 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
23 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
30 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

**Dharma School Service
(Summer Vacation)**

Combined Bon Mairi Services:

JULY 15 & 22

10:00 am & 5:00 pm

Combined Hatsu Bon Services:

JULY 16 & JULY 23

5:00 pm

In Memoriam



MAY 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 YAMADA, Satoko (91) | 11 MENTE, Toshiko (95) |
| 2 OKUDA, Yoshiko (92) | 12 UWONO, Edith Yuiko (92) |
| 3 MORINAGA, Sueo (93) | 13 FUGMAN, Keiko Kitagawa (86) |
| 4 TAKAHASHI, Tsuya (96) | 14 HIGA, George Yukio (85) |
| 5 YAMAMOTO, Esther Tsukumo (88) | 15 WATANABE, Clara Namiko (94) |
| 6 ASADA, Clara Yuriko (97) | 16 URAKAWA, Kitty Kinuko (82) |
| 7 SODETANI, Peggy Chiyoko (99) | 17 SAKAMOTO, Lillian Yuriko (84) |
| 8 MIYAZAKI, Midori (100) | 18 BENSON, Yoko Fukunishi (87) |
| 9 ASATO, Edwin Isamu (97) | 19 KAWAKAMI, Tsukumo (91) |
| 10 OGI, Howard Iwao (85) | 20 IKEDA, Billy Teru (76) |

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

- 06 Hale Nani – Rev. Hasebe
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Kaufmann
13 Maluhia – Rev. Kalu
Liliha – Rev. Kamuro
14 Kuakini – Rimban Hagio
27 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kaufmann
28 Leahi – Rev. Kalu



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