



1727 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

# GOJI

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DECEMBER 2018  
NEWSLETTER

of the  
Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin

[www.hawaiiibetsuin.org](http://www.hawaiiibetsuin.org)

2018 Slogan:

Embrace Change:  
Harmony  
(Accept Differences)

BETSUIN  
MINISTERS

Chief Minister  
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff  
Rev. Yuika Hasebe  
Rev. Joshin Kamuro  
Rev. Sol Kalu  
Rev. Shingo Furusawa

## Bodhi Day Services Schedule: Hawaii Buddhist Council, December 2, 2018 Hawaii Betsuin, December 9, 2018

The historical Shakyamuni Buddha, also known as Siddharta Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, was born of royal heritage to the Shakya clan in what is now present day Nepal. Although born as a prince and heir to a kingdom, Shakyamuni Buddha, out of deep compassion upon the realization of the suffering of all sentient beings, forsook that life of luxury and sought a way to understand and overcome the causes of suffering, by becoming an ascetic and undergoing rigorous practices. But after 6 years of extreme discipline, including meditation, Siddharta realized that these ascetic practices did not lead to any spiritual awakening and liberation. He abandoned such extremes of spirit and adopted the Middle Way of neither extreme asceticism nor lack of practice. Finally attaining enlightenment under the bodhi tree one night, after again eating and regaining his strength Shakyamuni became Buddha, the Fully Awakened and Enlightened One and set in motion the Wheel of the Dharma and taught the way to enlightenment for the liberation of all sentient beings from the endless cycle of birth and death and suffering in samsaric existence.

Bodhi Day,  
the Buddhist holiday  
that commemorates  
the day that the  
historical Buddha  
Shakyamuni attained  
enlightenment...

Bodhi Day, the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the historical Buddha Shakyamuni attained enlightenment under the bodhi tree over 2,500 years ago will be observed by Hawaii Buddhist Council on December 2, 2018 at the Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at 9:30 am and by the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on December 9, 2018 at 9:30 am. We invite all to come and attend both services to pay honor and respect and reflect upon the meaning and significance of the Buddha's spiritual awakening and attainment of liberation from suffering.



## Dharma Message from Rev. Yuika Hasebe

In our life, sometimes we encounter unexpected things. Recently, I found a baby bird in front of my house. The bird already had feathers and looked like it was old enough to leave the nest. I assumed that he was trying to fly but failed. I quietly passed the baby bird and got in my car. I went shopping and came back around 5:00 PM. I was about to park my car in my parking stall, but I found a big bird was sitting in the stall. Therefore, I parked my car next to that stall. I realized the big bird was a mother bird, and she was protecting the baby bird, which I saw in the morning. I was surprised to see those two birds.

There was no place to hide, so it was dangerous for the baby and the mother. The mother had her baby under her wing and tried to protect the baby.

I realized that I forgot to buy something, so I left the temple again. Before I left, I put traffic cones in the stall and made sure the birds were safe. It was dark already when I came back. I saw the baby bird on the ground all by himself. The mother bird had left him alone. When I saw the baby bird all alone in the dark, I was very sad and shocked.

The mother bird risked her life to protect the baby bird, but she had to leave when night came. Perhaps, she wouldn't be able to survive the night if she stayed with the baby. She might get hurt, too. She might also have other baby birds to take care of. There was a choice the mother bird had to make. Like the birds, we, too, have our suffering.

Shinran Shonin said "Lacking even small love and small compassion, I cannot hope to benefit sentient beings. Were it not for the ship of Amida's Vow, how could I cross the ocean of painful existence?" (Hymns of the Dharma Age) "Small love and small compassion" means compassion toward people who are close to us, such as our children, parents, and family. Shinran Shonin said we don't have the ability to save our closest, even the most important ones, when we want to. That is the suffering of human life. However, Shinran Shonin ended his poem with "Were it not for the ship of

Amida's Vow, how could I cross the ocean of painful existence?" This sentence reaffirms

that when we encounter suffering, which feels like we are baby birds alone and in the dark, there is always Amida Buddha. Life is not easy but we are not walking alone. We all had different 2018s. For some of you, it was a happy year, but for others, it was a difficult year. Good time or bad time, Amida Buddha was always there with you and always will be. These birds did not bring me happiness but taught me something deeper and more important.

Namu 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 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail (execdire@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.

### 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.

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!

## Betsuin BWA News and Events

### BWA MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2018

In year 2018 we have lost eight BWA members. They were members for a long time, some of them started as Fujinkai members, some were Upasika members, who eventually merged into BWA. They were very devoted and active members who were always helping in all the activities. They are May Okazaki, Helen Takamiya, Betty Sawada, Mitsue Kurozumi, Anne Domai, Miriam K. Morimoto, Sadaye Nishimoto, and Joyce Hashimoto. They are in Ojodo now; however we miss them greatly. In gassho. Namo Amida Butsu.

### SELFLESS GIVING: A TRUE JODO SHINSHU HEART

When you become a senior citizen, retired, and on fixed income, no matter how much your heart desires, you are limited in your spending. Therefore, when you attend the Sunday service and want to donate more into the "osaisen" bowl you may not be able to donate a large amount. However, old people love to eat and they spend money eating at fast food restaurants. Eating nutritious, well balanced food at home is the best for you instead of munching on fatty food that are huge and expensive. If you leave home and loiter, you will undoubtedly go to stores and shop for unnecessary things. Instead of going to the stores and buying things, go to the library and read, or go to the temple and do volunteer work. Volunteering is good for your health, in mind and body. You will also save money that you will otherwise spend foolishly at the mall or shops. That is the money that you can use to increase your donation for osaisen on Sundays.

On Sundays have your refreshments in the social hall and chat with your

friends and have a nice time, eating, drinking coffee, and gossiping the latest interesting news. Spend your time at the temple and don't rush to go to the shopping center. Having a good time with friends and ministers will stimulate your mind and prevent dementia. Don't hesitate to laugh and share funny stories with your friends. Ministers are nice and friendly people, so get to know them.

Let's all start practicing selfless giving and increase the osaisen box.

### BWA ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020 (2 year terms) CONGRATULATIONS!

Election was held at the general membership meeting on Nov. 4th. The following were elected to serve for two years. PRESIDENT Dianne Ida, IMMEDIATE PAST PRES. Wendie Yumori, FIRST VP Cynthia Alm, SECOND VP Liane Wong, RECORDING SECRETARY Arlene Matsubara, CORRESPONDING SEC. Sharon Yokoyama, TREASURER Lillian Ishii, ASSIST. TREAS. Lillian Kadomoto, 2 AUDITORS; Claire Groom, Lillian Inatsuka, 7 DIRECTORS Tamayo Matsumoto, Jo desMarets, Charlene Kihara, Barbara Brennan, Elly Hewitt, Florence Wasai, Minako Kamuro, HONORARY ADVISOR Junko Hagio, MINISTER ADVISOR, Rev. T. Hagio.

Standing Committee chairs remain the same. The members are appointed by the President. All members of the BWA are encouraged to assist and volunteer in any committee that they choose.

### HUMOR: FIVE TIPS FOR A WOMAN

1. Interview with 105 year old Ushi Honbu of Palolo. Reporter: Can you give us some health tips for reaching

Fujiko Motobu

the age of 105? Ushi. For better digestion, I drink beeru (beer). In the case of appetite loss I drink white wine. For low blood pressure I drink Red Wine. In the case of high blood pressure I drink Daiginjo sake. And when I have a cold I drink Awamori sake. Reporter: When do you drink water? Ushi: I've never been that sick to drink water.

### JAPANESE LANGUAGE IS VERY INTERESTING!

Japanese language is very interesting. Japan did not have any written language until the Chinese kanji was brought in. The monks then invented the katakana to translate some of the kanjis that they were unfamiliar and didn't know the pronunciation. Therefore, katakana is used for translation today. Words, other than Japanese are written in katakana. Hiragana was invented by the women, therefore, it is more refined and effeminate in writing.

The names of our Betsuin ministers are written in kanji and are very interesting in meanings. Most Japanese names are written in two kanji characters, but once in a while you will come across a name with three characters, such as Hasebe. Ha means hajime, or beginning; Se means umi or ocean, and Be, means location or place. Therefore, the name Hasebe means "the place where the ocean begins." Most Japanese names are of two characters. Hagio is divided into two, Hagi is the name of a tiny flower hagi, and O means support, or simply said, it means tail or "o shippo" so the meaning is support of the tiny flower or otherwise, the tail of the tiny flower. Which would you prefer? Furusawa

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



## President's Message From Dexter Mar

### The Meaning of Legacy – Dare to be Different

As the Hongwanji Buddhist temple building on Pali Highway marks its 100th year in the 129-year history of Shin Buddhism in Hawaii, we begin our Second Century by reflecting on our legacy to guide our steps forward. What has Hongwanji been and what should it be now?

As founder of the Hongwanji Mission, Bishop Yemyo Imamura revealed his deep commitment to American Democracy versus Japanese Imperialism as systems of governance; and his dedication to educating Japanese children born in Hawaii as patriots of American Democracy. He created an educational model called the "Educational Home" in which Hongwanji teachers assisted their students at both their public schools and their after-school "Japanese" classes where they learned about living as American citizens, as detailed in his 1918 essays "Democracy According to the Buddhist

Viewpoint" and "History of the Hongwanji Mission in Hawaii."

Until his death in 1932, Bishop Imamura's "Educational Homes" model provided thousands of Nisei children their foundation of American patriotism that supported their decisions to step up for military service in WWII. This legacy has shaped Hawaii to this day.

In July 1918, Bishop Imamura's iconic Pali Highway "International Style" temple was dedicated, so 2018 marks the Second Century of the Hongwanji temple building's service to the Hawaii Community. Of course, times change and the grandchildren of the Nisei generation don't need help understanding American Democracy, they are now the guardians of American Democracy. The support our children need today is the fundamental Buddhist teaching of interdependence to balance an increasingly self-centered, individualistic global culture.



The alternative to greed, anger and "fake news" has been sharing, caring and gratitude for over 2000 years. This humanist perspective is very much at odds with large parts of American society in which "winning at all costs", "self-made success," and "me, my, mine" attitudes. Yet, as we should, we recognize the Hawaii-ness of humility and teamwork as displayed by the Honolulu Little League team and their "we > me" values. Our deep-seated Aloha Spirit has been nurtured and strengthened through the diversity of our Plantation roots (Hawaiian, Haole, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Portuguese, Puerto Rican). In today's "Internet Connected" world, we need to help our children feel more socially connected through real human relationships and empathy.

In the early 1900's Hongwanji supported the Japanese community to adapt to American society through youth educational programs and building strong communities through plantation temples. Today, Hongwanji supports the American community by nurturing the spirit of Aloha and Buddhist values to an American culture ripped by divisiveness.

The ultimate expressions of the Buddhist teachings are living with Wisdom and Compassion. Dare to be different. Dare to care for others before your self.

Dexter Mar



#### JAPANESE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

has two characters in kanji. Furu means furui, or old and Sawa means pond, thus Furusawa means an old pond. Kamuro is one kanji, but in three syllables. If it were one syllable and one kanji, it would certainly be a Korean or Chinese origin. Kamuro means bald or "hage atama." Rev. Kamuro has a beautiful flock of hair, not an inkling of baldness. Do you suppose he'll become bald at age 90 or so to match his name?

Rev. Kalu is not Japanese, therefore, there is no translation for his name. Perhaps if you dig deeply into Japanese it may become "Kalui" meaning, light weight; or "akalui" which would then mean bright and shiny. Which would he prefer? If he is a little over weight he cannot be "kalui", he will be "momona" in Hawaiian; therefore he ought to choose "Akalui," since he is always cheerful. We can now call him, Rev. Akalui. Rev. Toshima, our Japanese language teacher, instigated our curiosity in the names. His name To means door and Shima means island; thus, his name means "door to an island." Why don't you research your own names? It's fun.

## Dharma School News Thanh Giang, PTO Coordinator

### Halloween Party with Cub Scout Pack 49

On October 27, 2018, our Dharma School families were invited to join Cub Scout Pack 49 for their annual Halloween Party. It was a circus theme with carnival style games, magic by Alan Arita, and balloon twisting by Suzette.

The Betsuin Social Hall was transformed into Circus Land. Tables were decorated with clown-faced pinwheels and popcorn buckets filled with treats. Pack 49 also set up a haunted house full of scary ghouls and monsters to excite people of all ages. Dinner was catered by Ichiriki and desserts were donated by the scouts and Dharma School families. There was even a popcorn machine for all to enjoy.

The night also included a costume contest in which our very own Nishihira family (Ron, Jan, Miyaka and Asami) won the family division with their "Alice in Wonderland" costumes. All in all, everyone had a fun evening and we look forward to many, many more!



## From the Green Team

Looking ahead to Earth Month  
(April 2019)

Save the dates! Hawaii Betsuin plans to once again hold a Green Fair and Earth Day Service in April. The fair will be April 14 and the service with guest speaker will be April 21.

Affiliated groups that would like to present an activity or display for the Green Fair are invited to contact Green Team convener, David Atcheson, at greenteaminfo@hawaiibetsuin.org to sign up or discuss ideas. More in future newsletters.



The Betsuin Boy Scouts will be  
making Kadomatsu for  
the New Year!

**Pick Up Dates: Sunday Dec. 16 and 23  
from 8:00 am to 11:30 am.**

**Cost: By Donation**

**Mahalo To  
All Who  
Participated!  
You Saved  
A Life!**

**Betsuin  
Blood  
Drive** 

**Betsuin New  
Year's Services**

**DECEMBER 31, 2018**

at 11:00 pm

Japanese: Rev. Hasebe

English: Rimban Hagio

**JANUARY 1, 2019**

at 10:00 am

Japanese: Rimban Hagio

English: Bishop Matsumoto

**Hongwanji  
Radio Programs  
DECEMBER 2018  
KZOO 1210 AM  
Japanese Language  
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 01 Rev. Ai Hironaka  
08 Rev. Shingo Furusawa  
15 Rev. Joshin Kamuro  
22 Rev. Yuika Hasebe  
29 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Betsuin Services**

**Asaji Service 8:00 AM**

- 02 HBC Bodhi Day at  
Higashi Hongwanji 9:30 am  
(no services at Betsuin)  
09 Bodhi Day – Rev. Yuika Hasebe  
16 Rev. Joshin Kamuro  
23 Rev. Shingo Furusawa  
30 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Adult English Services  
10:00 AM**

- 02 HBC Bodhi Day at  
Higashi Hongwanji 9:30 am  
(no services at Betsuin)  
09 Bodhi Day Family Service 9:30 am  
Mrs. Penny Atcheson  
16 Rev. Shingo Furusawa  
23 Rev. Sol Kalu  
30 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

**Nicchū Service 1:00 PM**

- 02 HBC Bodhi Day at  
Higashi Hongwanji 9:30 am  
(no services at Betsuin)  
09 Rev. Yuika Hasebe  
16 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio  
23 Rev. Joshin Kamuro  
30 Rev. Shingo Furusawa

**Dharma School 9:00 AM**

- 02 HBC Bodhi Day at  
Higashi Hongwanji 9:30 am  
(no services at Betsuin)  
09 Bodhi Day  
Family Service 9:30 am  
Mrs. Penny Atcheson  
16 Rev. Sol Kalu  
23 No DS Service

**In Memoriam**



**OCTOBER 2018**

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

05/24/18 SHODA, Miwako Tanaka (95)

06/07/18 INUO, Keiji (71)

09/25/18 TANABE, Mildred Toshiko (86)

02 HAYASHIDA, Richard Kaneo (95)

02 TOKUHARA, Tokuko (88)

02 WATANABE, Iwao (92)

03 TOKUHIRO, Tomoki (82)

09 ROOT, Kiyoko (90)

12 WATANABE, Satoru (93)

15 TAGASHIRA, George Yoshiyuki (81)

20 AMIHARA, Fujiko (87)

21 MASUNAGA, Michikazu (95)

21 MORIKUNI, Mitsuyo (100)

**Nursing Home Services  
DECEMBER 2018**

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



**2018 Memorial Service Schedule**

2018 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

|               |                |                 |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2017 – 1 year | 2006 – 13 year | 1986 – 33 year  |
| 2016 – 3 year | 2002 – 17 year | 1969 – 50 year  |
| 2012 – 7 year | 1994 – 25 year | 1919 – 100 year |



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