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GOJI

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NEWSLETTER

of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
hawaiihetsuin.org

2020 Slogan:

Building
Healthy Sanghas:
Embracing Generosity
and Openness

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

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



New Year's Greetings from the Gomonsu

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Last year again, following the year before, Japan, as well as many other countries in the world, was struck with multiple natural disasters. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives through those disasters and express my sympathy to everyone affected. In addition, we must never forget that armed conflicts and terror attacks as well as severe starvation is making it difficult to live, and lives are being lost every day.

Last September I had an opportunity to make an official visit to the temples of the Buddhist Churches of America as Monshu for the first time. This allowed me to complete the first round of visitations to all of the overseas districts which include Canada, Hawaii, South America, and the US mainland.

Although every temple and district has its own history and background, many of the overseas Jodo Shinshu temples were established and have been cherished by the Japanese immigrants and their descendants. Reflecting on how sincerely our predecessors entrusted themselves to the Buddha Dharma and how importantly they thought of their temples while facing many difficulties such as World War II, I cannot help but feel grateful and even awe for their tremendous efforts as well as many other wondrous circumstances that have allowed the Jodo Shinshu teaching to be handed down to us today.

However, a considerable amount of time has passed since the Japanese emigrated overseas, and the lifestyle of their descendants, as well as the world situation have changed greatly. In accordance with these changes, quite a few people who are not of ethnically Japanese origin have also come to appreciate the teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, and attend our overseas temples.

What caused this is nothing but the universality of the Jodo Shinshu teaching that transcends time and space. In other words, Amida Buddha's compassion equally reaches and nondiscriminatively embraces everyone in the midst of all sorts of pain and agony.

In this year, let us continue to listen to the Dharma, considering it is directed to each one of us, and keep moving forward to share it with many other people as possible.

January 1, 2020
OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Ministers' New Year's Greetings



"Let's realize the truth that 'one exists by grace of others'"

Rimban Hagio



Happy New Year! Under the light of Amida Buddha, I hope you all have a peaceful and joyous time! I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all for your support and help during year 2019. We don't know what wait for us in 2020. In good times or in difficult times, let's put our hands together and steadfastly walk, one day at a time, with Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Happy New Year 2020

I would like to thank the members of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, the staff of both the Mission of Hawaii and Betsuin, all my fellow ministers, and numerous other people who have interacted with me during the year 2019 for all the kindness and support they have extended to make life possible and tolerable for me.



I wish the best for everyone for the year 2020. 2019 was a much better year for me than the year before that, but it is moot to be comparing events that already happened. The Buddhist way is always to live in the present moment, not to dwell on the past nor worry so much about the future. Let us continue to walk the Nembutsu path, ever mindful of Amida Buddha's Boundless Compassion that embraces and guides us all through the new year 2020. Namo Amida Butsu!

Rev. Sol Kalu



Last year, many of you helped and supported me. I always appreciate your warm kindness. I will continue to try my best to share the Buddha Dharma with you, so I would like to ask for your continued help and support this year!

Gassho.

Shingo Furusawa



GOJI

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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.

GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, Japanese section editor* Production: *Stacy Bradshaw, Colleen Kunishige*; Circulation: *Stacy Bradshaw*; Contributing reporters from *Hongwanji Mission School, Buddhist Women's Association, Dharma School & Parents, Project Dana, Wednesday Gang and Gals, Green Team, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pacific Buddhist Academy, Betsuin Board and Social concerns, and the Kyodan*

The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.



happy
new
year

From Your
Betsuin
Staff!

President's Message:

"A New Year of Opportunity – The Path Ahead"

Dexter Mar

Our Vision of What We Want to Be:

***"A welcoming place where all share the joy of living
with gratitude and compassion inspired by
Buddhist values."***

Hauoli Makahiki Hou!



As we step into the new decade of "the 20's", our initiatives of business office re-organization, fundraising groundwork, and new Board of Directors puts us in position to make strides in continuing the wonderful legacy of Hawaii Betsuin.

The statewide Mission's new 5-year focus will be on developing healthy Sanghas, which aligns with Hawaii Betsuin's goal of improving the spiritual "illumination within" the temple to complement fundraising to re-purpose our facilities.

To realize our vision, we will focus on the following areas:

- Sangha: Sharing 'Everyday Buddhism' with BOTH members and NON-members.
- Affiliates: Improving connections with families and participants
- Spirituality: Providing deeper understanding, especially during Obon season.
- Social action: Reaching out to Honolulu folks via programs in Peace, Environment, & Community
- Membership: Expanding our new "Friends" enrollment to 500.
- Organization: Improving the functionality of the Business Office
- Facilities: Continuing fundraising. Start construction.

Top Priorities for January-March 2020

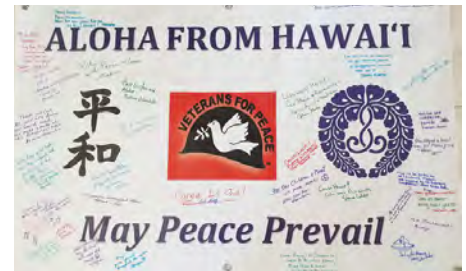
1. "Newcomers' Tea" launch
2. "Friends of Betsuin" membership launch
3. Obon re-imagining project
4. League of Women Voters workshop: January 28 - "Elections have Consequences"
5. Audio system upgrades
6. Hire a Project Manager
7. Start Lounge renovation
8. Board of Directors Leadership workshop
9. Launch individual giving for the Capital Campaign
10. Hire a Business Manager

Let's all make 2020 a great new year of strengthening our Betsuin!!

Betsuin Hosts Golden Rule Presentation and Panel Discussion

On November 23, Hawaii Betsuin hosted an event about the Golden Rule peace boat, now sailing again in a sequel to its bold 1958 mission to raise awareness about nuclear testing. The Golden Rule's Helen Jaccard spoke and shared a 10-minute documentary film about the boat and its mission. Additional speakers included Rev. Tatsuo Muneto and Dr. Seiji Yamada. Jikoen temple member Pete Shimazaki Doktor joined the speakers on the panel for Q&A, Bishop Matsumoto offered opening and closing words, and David Atcheson served as emcee. Attendees added their own messages of peace to a banner that will accompany the Golden Rule crew to Japan

in 2020. The feedback about the event has been excellent. For a complete article, please visit <https://hawaiihetsuin.org/golden-rule-peace-boat-event-112319/> on the Betsuin website. - David Atcheson



A banner the Golden Rule crew will sail with to Japan. Photo courtesy Helen Jaccard



Pete Shimazaki Doktor, Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, Helen Jaccard, Dr. Seiji Yamada, Bishop Eric Matsumoto, and David Atcheson. Photo courtesy Helen Jaccard.

Dharma Talks online

Did you miss a service or have trouble hearing a dharma talk? If you have a computer or device with web access, you can catch Sunday service messages on the Betsuin website. You control the volume! Recently posted messages include those by Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer at the Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service hosted by Hawaii Betsuin. Visit <https://hawaiihetsuin.org/dharma-talks/>.

BYO-CUPs 2020

Resolve to bring your own cup in 2020! If you already bring your own cup, consider adding a snack plate and reusable utensils to your kit. Thank you for supporting our temple's Green Hongwanji initiatives! (BYO-CUPs stands for "Bring Your Own Cup, Utensils, Plate.")

Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service



Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service and entertainment 2019 at Hawaii Betsuin. Betsuin Choir sings "Life," guest speaker Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer on "Ho'oulu: This Time of Transformation," Bishop Matsumoto, flower offering, Dr. Meyer with Lois Toyama, handbell performance by Tinker Bell, Tsugaru Shamisen.

BETSUIN BWA NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE!

The Betsuin BWA members send a heartfelt mahalo to all of our members and friends who have, in past years, generously donated countless items for the Rummage Sale of Hawaii Betsuin's Taste of Hongwanji Spring Bazaar. Our desire to assist the Betsuin with its fundraising is as strong as ever but because we ladies are getting a little older and are moving a little more slowly, we warmly welcome your assistance, especially with sorting and pricing, during our two-week prep period preceding the Taste of Hongwanji.

For the Rummage Sale, we would be most grateful for donations of items in good saleable condition, especially in the following categories:

All Clothing for Men, Women, and Children
 Accessories scarves, belts, shoes, purses, jewelry, etc.
 Linens bed linens, table linens, curtains, etc.
 Housewares..... dishes, bowls, glassware, stove cookware, microwaveable cookware, serving containers, storage containers, etc.
 Electric cord items..... kitchen and home appliances, phones, calculators, etc., in working condition
 Sporting Goods golf clubs, balls, bags, fishing rods, tennis racquets, small coolers, lanterns, etc.
 Craft Materials yarn, felt, beads, child and adult craft kits, baskets, etc.

We usually donate our leftover rummage sale items to a charitable organization and have found that many such organizations do not accept baby equipment such as car seats and strollers. Therefore, we most kindly request that such items not be donated.

Folks often come to the Betsuin in search of Asian items, either in the Rummage Sale Treasures section or at the Bontique in June so we would love to receive the following:

Japanese clothing . . . adult and children's kimonos, yukatas, happi coats and accessories, etc.
 Asian art scrolls, woodblock prints, paintings, prints, etc.
 Asian collectibles . . . dolls, display pieces, lacquerware, etc.
 Asian ceramics dishes, bowls, tea sets, etc.
 Asian objects trays, fans, coin purses, decorative knick-knacks, origami paper, etc.
 Ikebana vases, containers, kenzans (frogs), clippers

Again, we wish to thank you for your wonderful support for so many years – you have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Rummage Sale and Bontique sales! Please take your donations to the Betsuin Office.



Elections Have Consequences!

Do you know how to vote in 2020?

VOTE BY MAIL is a big change in 2020 primaries and general elections.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Make Sure ...

VOTER EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Tuesday, January 28, 2020
 Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu



Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster Remembrance Service Message

December 15, 2019 Given By Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Aloha Kakou and Good Morning.

I, too, would like to welcome everyone to this special remembrance service in honor of Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster.

Let me begin by asking, besides the obvious of being deeply connected with Buddhism and calling Hawaii home, what do Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer, the late Dr. Patricia Lee Masters and Eric Matsumoto have in common? Well, we all visited (the Dhamekha Stupa and the Mulgandha-kuti Vihara in) Sarnath, India, the site where Sakyamuni Buddha gave his First Sermon and thus set in motion "The Turning of the Wheel of Dharma and glanced upon a sign which read

*Mulgandha-kuti Temple
Erected by The Anagarika Dharmapala
Founder and General Secretary of
The Mahabodhi Society
With the help of
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Foster
Of Honolulu, and others
On the site where
Lord Buddha
Promulgated the teachings
2,500 years ago*

However, the thought that each one of us had was "Who is Mary Elizabeth Foster of Honolulu?" "Why was she being honored so far from her homeland in Hawaii?"

I believe my co-speaker (the Venerable Ayya M. Vimala, Founder of the Maha Bodhi Hawaii) will speak more about Mary Foster and her meeting with the Venerable Anagarika Dharmapala in 1893 and how Buddhist Teachings impacted her life-how it addressed the anger and grief which tormented her and her subsequent extraordinary contributions and support of Dharmapala with his efforts like saving the



Great Temple at Bodh Gaya, the site of Sakyamuni's Enlightenment and the famed Bodhi Tree, and his effort to revive Buddhism in India and Sri Lanka out of gratefulness/gratitude. So, I will just say that she, Mary Mikahala Foster, is one of the greatest female patrons of Buddhism, not only in Hawaii, but the world and maybe even in Buddhist history. She has been described as a modern day Visakha, the most famous female patron of the Historic Buddha, Sakyamuni. By one estimate, Mary Foster over a 40-year period donated, by today's standards, around 10 million dollars to Buddhist causes including the care and education of people in India and Sri Lanka and part of that was used to build the modern vihara/temple at Sarnath, where that sign we saw earlier is placed. It is no wonder that in the song "Beautiful Kahana" which speaks of Kahana Valley on the Windward side and is dedicated to Mary Foster, there is a verse which reads "This is the home of the lady Of the loving heart of India" which refers to her.

However, it was not only in India and Sri Lanka that she made a difference and changed the course of history and people's lives even still to this today. Even, right here in Hawaii, she helped many diverse communi-

ties including her own ethnic Hawaiian community and the Buddhist community especially the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Along with individuals like Saiji Kimura, without her help, things could be very different for us and by extension Hawaii. Mary Foster met the esteemed Anagarika Dharmapala in 1893 and her deep connection with Buddhism was established.

In the records of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, as early as 1899, only a mere 6 years after she met Dharmapala in Honolulu Harbor, already Mary Foster was supporting the local Buddhist community. In 1900, when the Fort Lane Hongwanji Temple was dedicated she was invited as an honored guest in gratitude for her support and contributions. However, it did not end here nor were Mary Foster's contributions only monetary. In 1901, she encouraged and escorted Queen Liliu'okalani to attend the Gotan-E or Shinran Shonin's Birthday Service at the Fort Lane Hongwanji Temple. Mary Foster was a very close friend of the Queen. The Queen's attending a Buddhist Service at a Buddhist temple made headlines in newspapers locally and all around the world. The Queen's attendance with Mary Foster boosted the moral and confidence of all Buddhists in Hawaii.

In the words of the late Ruth Tabrah who compiled our Centennial Publication "A Grateful Past, A Promising Future," ...two things were now clear. Hongwanji welcomed everyone. Buddhism had become accepted as a vital part of the religious life of Hawaii. No Japanese immigrant need feel 'enryo' about being Buddhist or being seen attending services at Hongwanji. Non-Buddhists could and did also feel drawn to listen to the Dharma...

continued on page 7

Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster Remembrance continued

However, Bishop Yemyo Imamura, also, knew that education was crucial and thus had a grand vision of providing more education, middle school and high school education to be exact and, for both men and women. In the words of our own Bishop Imamura in 1906, he said, I went to see Mrs. Mary Foster, a warmly supportive patron in recent years, to explain to her the desire for a new school building. She immediately agreed with my idea and, on the spot, presented me the land for the school. Her graceful figure raising her arms to say, 'this land is yours!' will always remain in my memory. I have never again felt that height of happiness as when first, the encouraging words from the Abbot (of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Kyoto) and then, on this return to Hawaii, the support of Mrs. Foster. The memory of these experiences continues to overwhelm me with warm gratitude on every occasion. It seems over half of our current property today was somehow connected to Mary Foster. The place where this temple stands, where we sit right now, was once the property of Mary Foster! Mary Foster continued to have a close relationship with Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii until her death in 1930. Sadly, for someone who had aided and supported the Buddhist community to the extent that she did she was not able to have the Buddhist funeral that she wished for. According to a postscript written by Louise Hunter, a well-known writer, who by the way authored the book "Buddhism in Hawaii: Its impact on a Yankee Community" (and who I met, once, at a retirement facility in Hawaii Kai),

Shortly before she died, Mrs. Foster asked (the Buddhist priest) Rev. Ernest Hunt to preside at her funeral service. Unfortunately, she did not follow his advice by putting this request in writing

and thus, her Buddhist funeral never happened. As we know back in 1930, Rev. Hunt was a minister here at Hawaii Betsuin and thus Mary Foster's funeral service would probably have been here at this temple. It is, now, today, 90 memorial years later, that her, Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster's, wish has come true as we hold this Remembrance Service to honor and express our gratitude to her. Today is long overdue, but it is finally here! Thank you to all of you, for being here today.

I would like to thank the Venerable Ayya M. Vimala Founder of the Maha Bodhi Society of Hawaii who recently revived this idea of having a memorial in honor of Mary Foster and Rev. Toyokazu Hagio, Chief Minister and Temple President Dr. Dexter Mar of Hawaii Betsuin who wholeheartedly supported it. A special thank you to our guests from the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists, Lehua

Matsuoka of Moiliili Hongwanji did that very special oli, PBA Head of Schools Mr. Josh Morse and PBA Students and especially the Venerable Dhammamuni Mahathero of Wat Dhammavihar of Waianae who did a chant in Pali and gifted us with a Bodhi Tree by which to remember Mary Mikahala Foster.

To conclude, I want to end with the words of Bishop Yemyo Imamura, who at one point in his life exclaimed, which also sums up my thoughts and feelings for today, he said, "To think of all those forgetting themselves for the Hongwanji to make today possible, I feel gratitude and am moved deeply even now." and "the entire karma of events throughout...is due to nothing but the manifestation of the compassion of the Buddha." Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion (Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light).

Time to Prepare for the 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

The BWA Federation would like to invite all temple members, Dharma School students, family and friends to join us in our 6th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade on Monday, January 20th.

- Meet at Magic Island between 8:00 and 8:30 (near the restrooms at the Ewa end of the Magic Island parking lot).
- Wear your BWA shirt, PBA shirt, organization shirt or anything purple.
- Bring some origami cranes to hand out if you have some
- Remember Green Hongwanji and bring your own water bottle.
- Wear sunscreen

The route is down Waikiki to Kapiolani Park, about 2 miles. Once again, PBA will join us in force and will provide a bus for those who would like to participate but can't walk the entire route.

Contact Lois Toyama for more information.



**From the
Green Team**

Earth Day 2020

and More from the Green Team

Did you know Hawaii Betsuin has a Green Team email list? If don't yet receive occasional updates about environmental projects and happenings at Betsuin but would like to, please email greenteaminfo@hawaiibetsuin.org with a signup request. Below is a variation of a December 2019 Green Team email update.

Plans for the Green Fair and Earth Day Service for 2020. For this next year, instead of having the Green Fair and Earth Day Service on successive Sundays, we intend to host these two events on the same weekend. **Please mark your calendar for Green Fair the morning of Saturday, April 18, and the Earth Day Service for Sunday, April 19.** Having Green Fair on a Saturday may allow other district temples to participate — we've extended the invitation.

Green Fair themes to be thinking about include our own Hongwanji theme and slogan for 2020, **Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness**, and the international Earth Day 2020 theme, **Climate Action**. Would your group like to host an activity or display? Please let me know of your interest and ideas in person or at greenteaminfo@hawaiibetsuin.org.

Trees. Discussions are afoot about tree planting on the Hawaii Betsuin temple campus. Trees can contribute many benefits, including beauty, shade, and carbon sequestration. Tree selection and siting must be undertaken with care and consultation. The Bodhi tree helps connect us to the roots of our Buddhist tradition. It's important to recognize, however, that the wasp that pollinates the Bodhi tree is now established on Oahu, leading to fruits with viable seeds that can then be spread by birds. Because the Bodhi tree is a vigorous non-native species, the sapling dedicated at the Mary Foster appreciation service on Dec. 15 will be planted in an impermeable planter and any flowers or fruits will be removed before seed is set. As for off-campus projects, stay tuned for updates on mass tree plantings that are part of the Carbon Neutrality Challenge spearheaded by UH Professor Camilo Mora.

Single-use plastics ban. Bill 40 was signed Dec. 15 by Mayor Caldwell, leapfrogging Honolulu to the head of the pack in terms of single-use plastic phaseouts in the U.S. The restrictions on items such as plastic utensils, foam and plastic plates, bowls, and clamshells will be phased in through January 1, 2022. Hawaii Betsuin's approach to limiting single-use plastics use at our temple has (so far) been via gentle encouragement and switching most business office food ware purchases to compostables. We'll research the implications of Bill 40's provisions for our temple. It may be that exemptions for "catered food" would apply to our big events. We could of course explore a Green Hongwanji temple policy to meet or exceed City rules even in cases where an exemption applies.

- David Atcheson
Green Team "convener"



Chef Paul Onishi's Vegan Talk Sharon Yokoyama

Chef Paul Onishi gave a talk about plant-based cooking on October 27, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Before his talk, he served a sample of his tasty Healthy Loco Moco. He then shared about "some of his journey from a self-described food abuser with high blood pressure to vegan chef and educator." He also shared food tips, patiently answered the questions, and listened to the comments from the audience. There were 35 people in attendance, and a good number of people signed up for a future cooking class.

Alan Kubota remembered that Chef Onishi helped with the first Taste of Hongwanji. He also taught a cooking class in the Betsuin kitchen. Thanks to help from Penny Atcheson, Cynthia Alm, Barbara Brennan, Alan Kubota, and Glenn Yokoyama. This event was sponsored by the Hawaii Betsuin Green Team and coordinated by Dave Atcheson and Sharon Yokoyama.

For a recipe for this Healthy Loco Moco, go to the link: <https://vegfestohu.com/recipe-vegan-healthy-loco-moco/>.



BWA News and Events

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU

ALL! 2020 is the year of the Rat and rats are busy bodies so we must all anticipate a very active and busy year for all of us. Hawaii Betsuin BWA will be led by the same officers, serving their second year terms. They did a great job in 2019, and now in 2020 they will again lead us through a very active, busy year. The officers are: President Dianne Ide, Immediate past president Wendie Yumori, 1st VP Cynthia Alm, 2nd VP Liane Wong, Recording Secretary Arlene Matsubara, Corresponding secretary Sharon Yokoyama, Treasurer Lillian Ishii, Assistant treasurer Lillian Kadomoto, Auditors Claire Groom, Lillian Inatsuka, Advisor Mrs. Hagio. Various committees are chaired by very hard working, efficient BWA members. You can all expect to have a very active and busy new year. Congratulations to all of you.

CONGRATULATIONS: Sharyn Sekine will be serving as President of the United BWA for two years, 2020 and 2021. United BWA is made up of three temples, Jikoen, Moiliili, and Hawaii Betsuin.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETING #1 for year 2020 will be held on Sunday, January 26 after the 10 am service in the Hondo. All BWA members are encouraged to attend. You will be briefed on the activities for year 2020, and it will be a busy year. We also seek help from all of you. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year, and we encourage you to bring in new members, young ones are preferred to replace all the seniors. Women who recently retired from their jobs are very good candidates, so please look for them and encourage them to join us.

SMILE, AND THE WORLD

SMILES WITH YOU! Didn't you

learn that when you were in elementary school? Why are some people so selfish about smiling? They keep a long, sour face and never smile at others. When you are at church, you ought to be happy and friendly, and smiles should come easily and freely. Smiles do not cost a cent. When you smile, you look beautiful. Here are 10 reasons for you to smile.

1. Smiles are universal the language which we all understand.
2. Smiles spread joy.
3. Smiles are contagious.
4. Smiles require less effort than frowning because fewer facial muscles are needed.
5. Smiles build relationships.
6. Smiles put others at ease.
7. Smiles make you more confident.
8. Smiles change your brain chemistry.
9. Smiles attract more of the same energy to you.
10. Smiles are free. They don't cost you a cent.

If we can all start smiling freely to one another, the atmosphere will certainly improve, and with all the ministers joining us with their wonderful smiles, we should all have a wonderful day at the temple. The BWA ladies will certainly lead the pack with their everlasting smiles. Here we go!!!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

Have you thought about making a resolution? Mental and physical health are very important for us, so how about focusing on those issues? As we grow older our minds begin to deteriorate, but in order to slow it down and not develop dementia too soon, we need to exercise our brains. How? That is through mental exercises, and these are

Fujiko Motobu

humor, so laughter will massage your brain and keep it active. To catch on to humor, you need to read books, do scrabble and puzzles, memorize things, poems, or anything of interest to you. You need to socialize and communicate with others, so coming to church is a nice place to socialize and talk stories, laugh, and have fun. Physical exercise is also very important, so that the seniors can learn to fall correctly and not hurt ourselves. Of course not falling is better. I explained to you about MESH, what I had learned at the Dana Project Workshop: M stands for movement, exercise of brain and body, E stands for eating the right food, S stands for sleep, getting enough good sleep, and H is for heal, not to live in the morbid past, but forgive others, and look at the brighter side in life. Forget about bad mouthing others, looking depressed and gloomy but smile and develop a healthy attitude. Positive living will make us live a longer and better life, so let's hang on to a good new year's resolution. **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

HUMOR: The teacher asked the class to use the word "fascinate" in a sentence. Molly put up her hands and said, "My family went to my grandparent's farm and we all saw his pet sheep. It was fascinating." The teacher said, "That was good, but I wanted you to use the word fascinate, not fascinating." Sally raised her hand. She said, "My family went to Hilo and I was fascinated." The teacher said, "Well, that was good, Sally, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate.'" Little Mel raised his hand, but the teacher hesitated. She had been burned by little Mel before. She finally decided there was no way he could change the word "fascinate" so she called on him. Mel said, "My aunt Carol has a sweater with 10 buttons, but her boobs are big so she can only fasten eight." The teacher sat down and cried. But you can laugh!



Betsuin Girl Scouts Girl Scouts Holiday Party

The Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scouts celebrated their Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7th. Over 160 Girl Scouts, family, and friends attended the Polar Express themed event dressed in their best pajamas. Everyone was treated to a magical train ride to the North Pole that included fun activities, hot cocoa, ice cream sundaes, and a surprise visit from Santa!

This year's holiday party was hosted by the Junior troop. Miya Loo, Junior scout, was part of the planning along with her sister scouts.

"For this year's Girl Scout Holiday Party, our patrol did cookie decorating. Everyone in our patrol brought 12 cookies and sprinkles to decorate them. The other patrols did an I-Spy Bottle craft and a holiday trivia game. Another activity that I enjoyed was the face painting! I really liked it. I would like to thank everyone who came and thank you to everyone who helped us set-up and worked on our activities."

Jan Nishihira and Miya Loo
Junior Troop 185



In the holiday spirit of giving, the scouts also held a canned food drive. 100 pounds of canned goods were donated to the Hawaii Food Bank. Mahalo to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin for providing the venue and to all those who helped make this event possible!



Betsuin Continues Family Promise Participation

Honolulu Hongwanji Council temples (Hawaii Betsuin, Jikoen, Moiliili and Windward) will continue supporting Family Promise client families in 2020. Family Promise is a social welfare organization that helps homeless families find housing as well as teaching basic life skills – developing household budgets, managing bank accounts, writing resumes for job application, etc.

Generally, one or both qualified parents are employed and there is no evidence of domestic violence and drug abuse. They just do not have resources to have a home without assistance. More than sixty churches and temples are scheduled to provide a week of temporary accommodations for Family Promise client families. Volunteers prepare breakfasts and dinners daily and most importantly a safe place for family-time and rest.

In 2020, Hongwanji volunteers will welcome and support Family Promise family clients as follows:

3/15 to 3/22/20 – Hawaii Betsuin at Hongwanji Mission School
5/31 to 6/7/20 -- Hawaii Betsuin at Hongwanji Mission School
8/9 to 8/16/20 -- Jikoen Hongwanji (Social Hall)

Hawaii Betsuin volunteers are members of the Board of Directors, Buddhist Women Association (BWA), Dharma School parents and Girl Scouts. These people have willingly committed their energy, time and resources to support Family Promise client families. As we believe that "many hands make light work," we welcome more volunteers to participate as socially-engaged Buddhists, demonstrating compassion, face-to-face, based on our deep awareness of interdependence. Please contact Alan Goto (ajgoto48@gmail.com) to join our pool of committed volunteers.

Betsuin Dharma School News Debbie Kubota

Sunday, December 15 - Mochi Tsuki

Good fun, tradition and good eats abounded as shouts of "Ichi, Ni, San" were heard echoing throughout the Annex Temple Social Hall. Dharma School students and families, YESS Camp leaders, along with the Troop 49 Boy Scouts (offering kadomatsu for donation) enjoyed pounding mochi in the traditional way, using an usu (large stone mortar) and kine (wooden mallet). Young, old and everyone in between took their turns, starting with three people holding mallets walking around the usu in a circle while mashing the mochi rice. Then two lucky people got to pound the mochi rice to the count "Ichi, Ni, San!" (one, two three in Japanese). The first person using the kine to pound on the call "ichi," the second pounder on the call "ni," and the mochi rice "turner" turned the mochi rice on the call "san." It was important to pound at the right time, so the "turner" did not get his hand hit. There were some very close calls.



There were many hands waiting for the pounded mochi to twist off balls of mochi in preparation for filling. Katakuriko (potato starch) was used to prevent the mochi from sticking. It was hard to choose from all the fun choices for filling, including the traditional azuki beans (an), peanut butter, jelly, marshmallows, Reese's peanut butter cups, Milky Way, Mounds, and M&Ms. But everyone got to taste the freshly made mochi with their favorite fillings. Yum! What a fun and festive time for ALL!

Mark your calendars for more fun Dharma School activities in 2020 including a group outing with the Honolulu Dharma Schools (Jikoen, Moilili, Windward Buddhist Temple) on March 1 and an intergenerational island-wide Hongwanji Picnic on May 3.



Dianne Ida

For 44 years, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has honored those who have exhibited and achieved excellence in their field. They are the Living Treasures of Hawai'i™.

The 2020 honorees are Robert U. Cazimero, Dr. Larry Lindsey Kimura, Carolee Nishi, and Sachie Saigusa.

Robert Cazimero is the award-winning, world-renown singer, songwriter, musician, and kumu hula.

Dr. Larry Kimura is an associate professor of Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies at University of Hawaii at Hilo. He was the main force

in launching the revitalization of the modern Hawaiian language.

Kumu Carolee Nishi has taught hula and Hawaiian culture to students from 3-90 years old at the Nu'uanu YMCA for the past 51 years. She also served as a kupuna teaching Hawaiian Studies at Wilson Elementary School. At this year's Queen Lili'uokalani Keiki Hula Competition, Kumu Carolee was honored with the Miriam Likelike Kekauluohi Achievement Award for teaching hula.

Sachie Saigusa is an accomplished sumi-e instructor. Sumi-e means black ink painting. Saigusa sensei taught

for the state Department of Education's Community School for Adults at Makua Alii Senior Center, at Moilili Community Center, Wahiawa Community Center, and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

The Living Treasures luncheon will be on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. The registration deadline is January 24, 2020. The cost is \$85. The late registration deadline is January 31, 2020, and the cost is \$100. For more information, please call 522-9200. Join us in recognizing these amazing people.

Radio Programs**JANUARY 2020****KZOO 1210 AM****Japanese Language****Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 04 Gomoshu Kojun Otani
& Bishop Eric Matsumoto
- 11 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 18 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 25 Rev. Shinji Kawagoe

Betsuin Services**Asaji Service 8:00 AM**

- 05 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 12 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 19 Ho'onko Service
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
- 26 Rev. Shingo Furusawa

Adult English Services

- 05 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 12 Rev. Sol Kalu
- 19 Ho'onko
Family Service 9:30 am
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
- 26 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Nicchu Service 1:00 PM

- 05 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 12 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 19 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 26 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Dharma School 9:00 AM

- 05 Rev. Sol Kalu
- 12 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 19 Ho'onko Family
Service 9:30 am
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
- 26 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

January 1, 2020**New Year's Day Service
10:00 am****Japanese: Rev. Hagio****English: Bishop Matsumoto****Everyone Welcome!****In Memoriam****NOVEMBER 2019**

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

October 13 UEDA, Howard Yoshinobu (80)

October 26 IYOKI, Yachiyo (100)

- 01 TERADA, Kikue (90)
- 04 YAMAMOTO, Yumiko Kawabata (94)
- 08 YASUDA, Stephen Shoji (95)
- 10 NISHIMURA, Margaret Satsuki (100)
- 12 NISHIZAKI, Yukie (99)
- 15 KIKUGAWA, Shirley Tomiko (84)
- 23 ARITA, Thomas Iwao (84)
- 24 MARUYA, Michael Hajime (76)
- 30 SAWAI, Masayoshi (95)

Nursing Home Services**JANUARY 2020**

- 02 Hale Nani – cancelled
- Hale Ho Aloha – cancelled
- 09 Maluhia – Rev. Furusawa
- Liliha – Rev. Hasebe
- 10 Kuakini – Rev. Hagio
- 23 Nuuanu Hale (9:30 am) – Rev. Furusawa
- 24 Leahi – Rev. Hasebe

2020 Memorial Service Schedule

2020 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2019: 1st year | 2008: 13th year | 1988: 33th year |
| 2018: 3rd year | 2004: 17th year | 1971: 50th year |
| 2014: 7th year | 1996: 25th year | 1921: 100th 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



New Year's Message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto



NAMO AMIDA BUTSU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At the start of the New Year, let me begin by expressing my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the entire Sangha and Friends of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii who have supported our Organization for over 130 years in Hawaii. It is because of Amida Buddha's Great Wisdom and Compassion, the guidance received from the Revered Masters and Teachers like Shinran Shonin who shared the Teachings and the Sangha that we have been able to come this far. Thank you to one and all!

Deeply reflecting, I have noticed that we speak a lot about the Buddha and the Dharma, but we seldom speak about the Sangha. However, the Sangha is also essential. Thus, out of this awareness, our next 5 Year Theme and Slogans will focus on the Sangha. Of course, the Sangha (which is you and I) which tries to live the Dharma as shared by the Buddha. There is no doubt that the thoughts, words and actions of every individual is very important and makes a difference.

Let us receive guidance from "The Teaching of Buddha" in which it shares about clergy that "Those who wish to teach the Buddha's teachings acceptably must be concerned about four things: first, they must be concerned about their own behavior; second, they must be concerned about their choice of words when they approach and teach people; third, they must be concerned about their motive for teaching and the end they wish to accomplish; and fourth, they must be concerned about great compassion." Further it shares "Lay followers should not only believe in the Three Treasures...by themselves, but also they should, as far as they are able, help others...to awaken in them an unshakable faith in the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha, so that they, too, may share in Buddha's compassion." Let us, the Sangha, clergy and lay, jointly together share our awareness, joy and gratitude for Buddha-Dharma.

In Jodo Shinshu Teachings, Shinran Shonin shared that when we (regardless of whether we are clergy or lay) realize true mind (shinjin), we unfailing gain ten benefits in the present life. I would like to mention three of the ten: the benefit having great joy in our hearts, the benefit of being aware of Amida's benevolence and of responding in gratitude to his virtue, and the benefit of constantly practicing great compassion." In regards to "practicing great compassion," Shinran Shonin quotes a sutra "What is "great compassion?" Those who continue solely in the nembutsu without any interruption will thereby be born without fail in the land of happiness at the end of life. If these people encourage each other and bring others to say the Name, they are all called "people who practice great compassion."

Further, let us keep in mind the thoughts of our 3rd Spiritual Leader Kakunyo Shonin who said, "(Our) Prosperity is dependent on the quality and depth of the Shinjin of our Followers." Rennyo Shonin, our 8th Spiritual Leader, further shared, "...be careful not to let the mind run its course unbridled...be sure to control it. It is wrong to allow the mind to take its course unchecked. We are enabled to control the (our) mind due to the Other-Power." Finally, our 25th Spiritual Leader, His Eminence Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani shares "By listening to the Primal Vow and how it was established by Amida Tathagata, we are enabled to become conscious of our own ignorance and self-oriented inclinations, and through such awareness, we naturally become gentle in word and deed in our efforts of minimizing our egoistic way of thinking." "Even though our efforts may pale in comparison to the Buddha's Compassion, we are at least guided in the proper direction by the Buddha Dharma."

As I have been emphasizing the life of Shin Buddhist is one of responding in gratitude to the Wisdom and Compassion of Namo Amida Butsu by reciting the Nembutsu and we try to live our life guided by the Dharma in grateful response until our life culminates (at death) with our entering the Pure Land of Perfect Peace and Happiness to attain Perfect Peace of Enlightenment. May the New Year be truly prosperous in the truest sense of the word. Happy New Year!

In Gassho/Anjali,
Eric Matsumoto, Bishop



New Year's Message from Kyodan President, Pieper Toyama Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

Note: This message appears as part of the introduction to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's 2020 calendar. When you receive your calendar, please reflect on the three suggested actions below.

Every year, over many weeks, five individuals gather to discuss, ponder, select, write, and review. And the result of their efforts is the Hawaii Kyodan Calendar that will be distributed soon. Alan Kubota, Stephan Doi, Yumi Suzuki, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, and Bishop Eric Matsumoto toiled mightily to bring us this calendar out of a personal commitment to inspire us. This year they committed their best efforts, using the theme Building Healthy Sanghas and the slogan, Embracing Generosity and Openness, to carefully select photographs and words that move us to action. But in works such as this, the challenge is to transform inspiring photographs and lofty words into real and everyday actions that touch others. If we fail to take on this challenge, the theme and slogan and the hard work of these five individuals easily vanish from our hearts and minds even as we turn the pages of the calendar. Then the commitment of these five good people who gave us this calendar will hold no power. Let us not allow this to happen. I suggest that we all consider the following as each month unfolds.

1. When we turn each page to a new month, let us take the time to really look at the picture, every object, every person. Let us see the act of generosity or the act of acceptance and openness embedded in the picture. Let us see the reflected warmth and joy of the sangha in the photograph.
2. Then in the days that follow, let us use the picture of the month to inspire us to be generous and open and joyful with others. Let us transform opportunities in the fleeting moments of our lives into action. And here I think of simple actions as a hearty, "Good morning," a smile full of warmth, and a gentle touch of reassurance.
3. And in the moments when we have transformed the lofty phrases of our theme and slogan into tiny, real and true actions, let the sound of Namo Amida Butsu flow through us.

If we take the time and commit ourselves to perform these three acts, the pages of the calendar will breathe Namo Amida Butsu into our lives. Our sanghas will grow healthy because threads of generosity and openness will begin to bind one member to another. And we will have made the commitment of Alan Kubota, Stephan Doi, Yumi Suzuki, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, and Bishop Eric Matsumoto real and true.

Namo Amida Butsu
Pieper J. Toyama, President

