



1727 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

# GOJI

Vol. 75 No. 2



FEBRUARY 2020  
NEWSLETTER

of the  
Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin

[hawaiihetsuin.org](http://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

## Betsuin's 2020 Asoka Award Presented to Joyce and Alan Tomita



Betsuin President,  
Dexter Mar, presents  
the 2020 Asoka Award  
certificates to Joyce and  
Alan Tomita.

At Hawaii Betsuin's New Year's Party on January 12, Alan and Joyce Tomita were honored with Hawaii Betsuin's Asoka Award. The award recognizes recipients' generosity, dedication and constancy to the temple.

Alan has served the temple as a director of the board, as Bon Dance Chair, and by supporting youth programs and Hongwanji schools in numerous ways. Years ago, he was instrumental in changing the Bon Dance dress code for women from yukata to happi coat. His emphasis has been "food, fellowship, and fun."

Joyce recently retired from extended service on the Betsuin staff in accounting. She has also served as a Girl Scout troop leader. The diverse and sustained contributions of time, leadership, big-picture thinking, and other support from both Alan and Joyce have helped sustain Hawaii Betsuin over the years as a center of dharma and community.

Congratulations to Alan and Joyce Tomita, our 2020 Asoka Award honorees!

## Nirvana Day (February 15, 2020)

It is said that February 8th was the date which Sakyamuni Buddha passed away. Under the Saha tree at the village called Kushinagar, he closed his eyes and entered to Nirvana at the age of 80 years old. Buddha gave the last message to his disciples which was, "After I leave this world, make the Dharma your place of refuge. Make of yourself a light... all things in this world are impermanent. Follow the Dharma diligently."

Now we have many different branches and denominations of Buddhism all over the world but all of them came from one person, Shakyamuni Buddha. He was the first one to awaken to the truth and reveal it to the world. The words he left, over 2500 years ago, still vividly explain the truth of all life. During the month of February, let us think again what Buddha leaves for us.

## Dharma Message: “Namoshi” – Take Refuge In ” Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Buddhism can be condensed to the phrase, “The Teaching of Namo,” the way of showing respect – of taking refuge in. Simply said, this is the essence of Buddhism.

This term “Namo” as understood or defined by other denominations, is to pray or to make a request of Buddha, but according to Shinran Shonin, this is not the right way. According to our teachings, “Namo” means to take refuge in (Kimyo) and place complete reliance in Amida. Kimyo means that Amida calls to us and assures us of deliverance.

The beginning of the “Shoshinge”

says, “I rely upon the immeasurable life. I take refuge in the inconceivable light.” This is the chant in praise of the teaching of Jodo Shinshu.

To meet or have an encounter with Amida Buddha is to let us know that “I am being called.” “I am being entreated.”

Buddha calls us because Amida has a matter for us to attend to and that matter is “I wish I could attain Enlightenment quickly and to remove the roots of afflictions of birth and death.” (Pureland Sutras)

The affliction of birth and death is life itself, and so we must live with our might on life’s journey. Also, that journey must be travelled with suffering. It ought to be said that it symbolized birth. Since suffering is symptomatic of living, that affliction of birth and death can’t be removed even with the use of Amida’s power. That problem does not vanish.

The compassion of Amida Buddha

is not to pull out the afflictions of birth and death, but Amida says that the source or root of it will be removed.

That source is none other than mumyo (ignorance). If indeed those roots of ignorance grow thick and dense then those leaves and branches of afflictions of birth and death will grow thick and dense. No matter how much you pluck off those leaves and branches of afflictions of birth and death, the root of ignorance does not vanish. It can be torn out only through the wisdom of Buddha.

So, salvation means that Buddha calls to us. “I can’t forsake, abandon the sort of person you are. I will save you.”

By living together with Amida Buddha, the world will be opened to us where there is no more suffering of afflictions of birth and death.



# 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.

### 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.



## Betsuin Upcoming February Events:

- 01** Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby set up 2-4 pm in the Annex Social Hall
- 02** Scout Sunday Service and Activities
- 07-08** 108th Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) in the Social Hall; Living Treasures of Hawaii Luncheon to follow at the Hilton Hawaiian Village
- 08** Cub Scouts Arrow of Light Ceremony in the Social Hall
- 09 and 15** Social Hall is closed; scheduled activity HMS Drama “Matlida”: show times are Friday 2/14 at 7 pm and Saturday, 2/15 at 2 pm and 7 pm.
- 17** President’s Day; business office is closed

Tickets / Reservations are required for some activities! Please contact the Betsuin office for more information.

## President's Message from Dexter Mar



### Your 2020 Leadership Team

### Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

Last month, our priorities for the first three months of 2020 were outlined.

This month, we introduce the new 2020-21 Leadership team charged with navigating our uncertain waters and moving forward in our Second Century. Building Healthy Sanghas/Communities requires laying "bricks" of change one at a time. Following the Buddhist path not only includes adapting to change, but also joining with others to work together to achieve wonderful dreams. Come join us!

#### Our returning Directors are:

David Atcheson	Faye Mar
Ben Bruch (Auditor)	Roy Miyamoto
Joel Determan (Auditor)	Fujiko Motobu
Jo desMarets	Irene Nohara (Secretary)
Jackie Furuta	Dennis Sekine
Alan Goto (Vice President)	Sharyn Sekine
Wendy Harman (Vice President)	Jerry Tamamoto (Past President)
Lillian Inatsuka	John Toguchi (Vice President)
Alan Kubota	Florence Wasai
Debbie Kubota	Reid Yamamoto
Dexter Mar (President)	Wayne Yoshioka (Vice President)
	Wendie Yumori

**New Directors are:** Cindy Alm

#### Minister Board Members are:

Rev. Hagio  
Rev. Hasebe  
Rev. Kalu  
Rev. Furusawa

#### Affiliate Organization Board Members are:

Eric Ebesu (Boy Scouts)  
Dianne Ida (Buddhist Women's Association)  
Jovie Yoshioka (Dharma School)  
Jan Nishihira (Girl Scouts)  
Brian Brennan (Hongwanji Mission School Parent-Teacher Organization)  
Alan Tomita (Sudhana Fellowship)

#### Ex Officio Board Members are:

Stacy Bradshaw (Executive Director)  
David Randall (Hongwanji Mission School Head of School)

#### Non-Member Lay and Advisor Board Members include:

Glenn Yokoyama / Peter Kashiwa / Keith Lee / Steve Lohse



## BWA News and Events

Dianne Ida, President

## BWA Announces Officers for 2020

The 2020 BWA Executive Board held its first meeting of the year on January 11th. The officers are starting their second year of a two-year term. Most of the committee chairs have been serving for several years. New this year is Diane Marshall, the Communication Tree chairperson. Leaving the board is Sumie Sueishi. We send to her our deepest appreciation for all the years she has helped to keep the BWA strong and provided leadership and expertise. Arigato, Sumie!

**For 2020, the BWA officers are:**

President: Dianne Ida  
 Immediate Past Pres: Wendie Yumori  
 1st Vice President: Cynthia Alm  
 2nd Vice President: Liane Wong  
 Recording Secretary: Arlene Matsubara  
 Corresponding Sec: Sharon Yokoyama  
 Treasurer: Lillian Ishii  
 Assistant Treas: Lillian Kadomoto  
 Auditor: Claire Groom  
 Auditor: Lillian Inatsuka

**The Directors are:**

Barbara Brennan, Jo desMarets,  
 Elly Hewitt, Charlene Kihara,  
 Florence Wasai, Charlyne Tom  
 Tamayo Matsumoto,

**Committee Chairs:**

Archives/Website: Penny Atcheson  
 Communications Tree: Diane Marshall  
 Community Service: Jo desMarets  
 Family Promise: Sharyn Sekine  
 Finance: Claire Groom  
 Hosha: Claire Groom  
 MC and Ushers: Lillian Inatsuka  
 Membership: Sharyn Sekine,  
 Norine Liem  
 Mini-Market: Florence Wasai  
 Publicity: Fujiko Motobu  
 Refreshments: Charlotte Miyamoto

**Honorary Advisor:** Junko Hagio**Minister Advisor:** Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

The BWA organization gives all of us a chance to be of service to the temple, to meet many new and interesting people, to learn new things, to see new places, and to have fun. Our members are Brave, Willing, and Awesome. We welcome women and men of all ages to join. Members do not have to participate in everything. We choose the activities that fit our schedule and interest. So, make 2020 the year you join us! For more information, please talk to any of the Board members or ask for a brochure in the Betsuin office.

## BWA 2020 Officers and Advisors



Left to right seated: Jo desMarets, Diane Marshall, Elly Hewitt, Claire Groom, Sharyn Sekine, Norine Liem, Dianne Ida. Standing: Rimban Toyokazu Hagio, Cynthia Alm, Lillian Inatsuka, Charlotte Miyamoto, Lillian Ishii, Fujiko Motobu, Florence Wasai, Wendie Yumori, Sharon Yokoyama, Junko Hagio, Arlene Matsubara, Charlyne Tom, Penny Atcheson. Missing: Barbara Brennan, Lillian Kadomoto, Charlene Kihara, Tamayo Matsumoto, Liane Wong.

BWA ACTIVITIES  
FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 Sat. Hosha 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
 Help is needed!

Feb. 6 Thurs. BWA Federation tea  
 in dining room at 4:00 p.m. Help is  
 needed!

Feb. 8 Sat. Living Treasures  
 Luncheon at Hilton Hawaiian Vil-  
 lage, Mrs. Saigusa, honoree, BWA  
 member.

Feb. 15 Sat. BWA Executive board  
 meeting at 10 a.m. in lounge.

Feb. 22 Sat. Honolulu United BWA  
 rep meeting 10:00 am at Betsuin.

Feb. 23 Sun. BWA Mini Market #1.  
 Donations and help needed.

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!

## BWA News and Events continued from page 4

Fujiko Motobu

**DANA Month:** Dana means Self-less Giving, and last year the BWA members as well as others who attend the Betsuin services generously contributed to the Dana Collection. We surpassed all other years and collected nearly four thousand dollars. The Dana collection, with careful and wise research under chair Liane Wong, is given to three needy organizations each year. They receive a thousand dollars each year for three consecutive years and the fourth, perpetual receiver, is the Dana Project Organization. Last year, as the third-year recipient, Project Vision Hawaii received a \$1,000. 2019 was their final year. The second-year recipient was AIO Foundation, Kahauiki Village. Duane Kurisu organized the project using the concept of sugar plantation homes. 2020 will be their third and final year to receive \$1,000. The first-year recipient in 2019 was HOME Project for the needy and they will continue to receive \$1,000 in 2020 and 2021. A first-year recipient will be selected after the DANA donations are collected in the month of February, ending in March.

You have all been very generous in making great donations for these well deserving organizations in our community. Your kindness, compassion, and generosity are shown very vividly and we do hope you will continue to support the project. Thank you.

Volunteering is good for us. It is one way of holding back dementia because when you volunteer, you show kindness and you interact with others. Therefore, if you have just two hours once a month on a first Saturday morning please come to church and

help in Hosha. You can soon get more involved in either BWA or church activities.

**BRAIN FOOD:** Were you aware that certain kinds of foods have positive effect on mental health? These are vegetables, especially leafy greens. Seeds and nuts, fresh fruits, whole grains, organic eggs and fatty fish are also good for your brain. Have you noticed that none of the recommend food have two or four legs, like chicken, pork or beef? It has been discovered in research that when people are deprived of sleep and presented with an array of food choices, the food that smelled most desirable were those loaded with fats and sugars. In America 30% of the people sleep less than six hours a night. That is the same percentage of Americans who are obese. If you are overweight and chronically deprived of sleep, train your nose to love healthy foods. Start with garlicky salmon burgers or salad greens and get into aromas. Learn to sniff out what is good for you. Also, head for bed earlier and make your bedroom quiet, no TV or digital stuff. You will feel better and shed a few pounds.

**OSAISEN --** donation made at the altar area after offering incense. I have been going to church for over eighty plus years, although it does not necessarily mean that I listened very well. As a little child I received coins to donate in the osaisen box which was located at the entrance, right behind the last pew in the Hondo. It was fun to

throw the coins and listen to the jingling sound as it scattered down to the bottom of the large box. Today, the box is not available anymore due to thieves. When I was in the seventh grade, after the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941 and the U.S. entry into World War II, we did not have any church services. All of the ministers were hauled off to relocation camps, identified as enemies. The Japanese became second-class citizens who lost all our rights. We became victims of military or martial law and lived strictly under the military jurisdiction. The Japanese young men were not accepted in the military when war was declared in 1941, but finally in 1943 they were accepted. The thinking was that about one or two hundred would volunteer in the army. They were mistaken, as thousands of men volunteered and joined as interpreters, the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Regiment. When this happened, the plantations lost their working force of men; therefore in 1944-46 or thereabout, high school students went to work in the sugar cane and pineapple fields every Friday as Victory Corps day workers. In 1945 I remember working in the sugar cane fields from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for 14 cents an hour, which was our minimum wage amount. The pineapple workers in Oahu were paid more, like 20 cents. Among the sugar cane high school workers, there must have been some very intelligent students, for they negotiated with the union that we would clean the same number of rows of grass along the sugar cane, but work from 6:00 to 11:00 and leave for the day. Those who chose to stay the whole day could do so; however most of the students scurried and

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## Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

## Sunday, January 12 Dharma Talk by Reverend Shingo Furusawa

During our Dharma School Service, Reverend Furusawa shared “his version” of the story about the bird with two heads and one body. He shared a delightful message with wonderful artwork about this bird with two heads. One head was called Red and the other was called Blue, because of the colors of their beaks. Sadly, the heads did not get along. Red disliked Blue so much that he prepared a magnificent feast for Blue, but put poison in the food. Blue didn’t like Red either, so really didn’t want to eat the food, but it looked so good that he devoured it. Pretty soon, Blue started feeling the effects of the poison, and because they shared one body, Red did too. Blue suggested that they both try to spit out the poison. They both started spitting, and were able to rid themselves of the poison and survive. Red thanked Blue for his good idea to spit out the poison, and from then on, they decided to support and help each other. “I respect you,” they said to each other. What a meaningful story. Thank you, Reverend Furusawa!



## A Lesson on Generosity - Kindergarten/1st Grade Dharma School Class

To promote the new HHMH theme and 2020 Slogan — Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness — a lesson on generosity was shared with the K-1 Dharma School Class. To reinforce concepts of generosity, especially being generous with non-tangible things, the book, *Learn About Values: Generosity*, was shared with the class. Then each student made a wall hanging to remind them about generosity activities that they could do. The top of the wall hanging said “I Will,” then each student selected four activities from the following: Spend time with family and friends, help someone, give love to others, share my things, take time to listen, be kind to all, or give someone a smile. We hope that these wall hangings will remind our students to be generous on a daily basis.



Mark your calendars for more fun Dharma School activities this year including a group outing with the Honolulu Dharma Schools (Jikoan, Moiliili, Windward Buddhist Temples) on **Sunday, March 1** and an intergenerational island-wide Hongwanji Picnic on **Sunday, May 3** at Magic Island. Hope to see you all there!



## Hongwanji Walks In Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 20, 2020: Ala Moana Park to Kapiolani Park



## BWA continued from page 5

in an envelope and request for a receipt so you can declare for tax deduction. Please think about increasing the amount of osaisen that you donate. Please just give from your heart. Thank you.

NOW USE YOUR BRAIN FOR SOME HUMOR: We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.



## Radio Programs FEBRUARY 2020

**KZOO 1210 AM**  
**Japanese Language**  
**Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 01 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 08 Rev. Hiromi Kawaji
- 15 Rev. Shinkai Murakami
- 22 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 29 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

## Betsuin Services

**Asaji Service 8:00 AM**

- 02 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 09 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 16 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 23 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

## Adult English Services

- 02 Scout Sunday  
Combined Service 9:30 am  
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 09 Rev. Sol Kalu
- 16 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 23 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

## Nicchu Service 1:00 PM

- 02 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 09 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 16 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 23 Rev. Shingo Furusawa

## Dharma School 9:00 AM

- 02 Scout Sunday  
Combined Service 9:30 am  
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 09 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 16 Rev. Sol Kalu
- 23 Mrs. Barbara Brennan

Everyone  
Welcome!



## In Memoriam



## DECEMBER 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

10/25/2019 NISHIHARA, Kenneth (79)  
11/21/2019 YAHATA, Setsuyo (91)

09 KURODA, Marian Takiko (81)	21 KANEMORI, Frieda Matsue (99)
09 YAMADA, Mary Yaeko (99)	21 MATSUMURA, June Yukie (96)
11 KANAGAWA, Muriel Tazuko (94)	22 SASAKI, Richard Shoichi (92)
11 KUNIMURA, Ernest Mitsuo (87)	24 NAKAHARA, Mitsue (94)
11 MINAMI, Aiko (94)	25 SAKIMOTO, Elsie Hisaye (92)
16 HIROHATA-GOTO, Norman (79)	28 NAKAGAWA, Hazel Etsuko (91)
18 YAMAMOTO, Richard Kazuo (97)	28 TAJIMA, Edmund Toshio (88)
19 FURUKAWA, Hisano (96)	28 TAKETA, Walter Katsumi (90)
19 TANAKA, Gail Kaoye (92)	30 YONESHIGE, Hiroshi (98)
20 NAKAYAMA, Hideo (97)	31 NAKAMURA, Beatrice Fusayo (92)

## Nursing Home Services FEBRUARY 2020

Hale Nani – Cancelled  
Hale Ho Aloha – Cancelled  
13 Maluhia – Rev. Furusawa  
Liliha – Rev. Hasebe  
14 Kuakini – Rimban Hagio  
27 Nuuanu Hale (9:30 am) – Rev. Kalu  
28 Leahi – TBD



### 2020 Memorial Service Schedule

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

2019: 1st year	2008: 13th year
2018: 3rd year	2004: 17th year
2014: 7th year	1996: 25th year



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