



1727 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

# GOJI

Vol. 75 No.6



JUNE 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  
Rev. Masanari Yamagishi

## A message from the Executive Director, Stacy Bradshaw: Phased reopening of Betsuin scheduled to begin July 1, 2020



For nearly 10 weeks our temple has kept its doors closed, due to the state's stay-at-home initiatives. We hope that you have been minimizing your contact with others and have been practicing safety measures such as wearing masks in public and washing your hands thoroughly throughout the day. Because the data on COVID-19 shows good progress, we can look forward to the next step.

On May 21, 2020, the Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell signed an order, approving the opening of temples and churches for in-person religious services, starting from June 5, 2020. Our temple leadership is working with the ministers and lay staff to create a plan for reopening the temple. Despite our eagerness to see all of our members and friends back at the temple, we are taking serious precautions to ensure everyone's safety.

After careful consideration, we have decided that the earliest that the Betsuin should reopen is July 1, 2020. The extra time will allow us to prepare the temple with proper signage, resources, and cleaning and sanitizing routines to ensure the wellbeing of our sangha, ministers, staff, and visitors.

The current plan is to open the temple in phases. In the first phase, scheduled to begin July 1, 2020, we will focus on:

1. opening the business office,
2. having funeral and memorial services with 9 or fewer participants plus the minister (10 people, maximum, participating), and
3. opening the columbarium for visitations on an appointment basis.

**The date to resume in-person services at the Betsuin has not been determined at this time.**

The intended start date for phase one of July 1 is subject to change based on evolving conditions and directives from city officials. Subsequent phases will be announced as they evolve. Current information will be posted on our website, [hawaiihetsuin.org](http://hawaiihetsuin.org) and our Face Book page Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

### Notice:Choralfest 2020 Postponed

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Choralfest 2020, which was scheduled for September 26-27, 2020 at Hawaii Betsuin, has been postponed as a result of current public health uncertainties. Registration fees received will be refunded. Determination of a future date for the event will be made at a later time. Your understanding and interest are appreciated.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding as we work to open the temple and its facilities in a safe and thoughtful way!

Please remember that the Betsuin's ministers and staff are here to assist you and that we are only a phone call away. Take care and stay safe! We're all in this together! Namo Amida Butsu!

## President's Message from Dexter Mar



### Building Healthy Sanghas – Gratitude

Join us to honor “Health Care Treasures” and Essential Workers

While most of us are taking refuge from the lurking COVID-19 virus at home, sanitized workplaces, and/or disinfected stores, there are many medical professionals who must face this fierce predator at the “front lines”

of the battle, and essential workers who are providing services in food, safety, housing, communications, banking, transportation, education, etc. facing higher risk of exposure daily.

The Hawaii Hongwanji Mission has developed a program for our sangha to express their gratitude to all essential workers, especially the front-line medical professionals serving the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each Wednesday at 12 noon, a “Mahalo” video will be premiered on YouTube for viewing by our members, friends and community to remind us to stop for a moment and think of these selfless beings that courageously face higher risk of infection than those taking refuge at home. The temple bell will be symbolically rung (until the lockdown rules are relaxed to allow us to really ring the temple bells again).



## 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:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Shingo Furusawa, 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.

The 8-minute video features Kansho bell ringing, a photo collage accompanied by the Hawaii Betsuin choir singing, “Because You Are There,” and a closing message. New photos will be shown each week and a “Health Care Treasure of the Week” will be honored. Each week’s video will remain in the YouTube library for viewing at a later time.

So, mark your calendars to take 10 minutes and say “Thank you” to the so many others who support our life, health, and safety.

Please stay well, stay safe and until we meet again. Namo Amida Butsu!

## SAVE THE DATES: Summer Session, June 22-26, 2020

### “Interlinked: Understanding the Origins and Evolution of American Buddhism”

The Buddhist Study Center will offer its 46th Annual Summer Study Session as a free on-line class series on June 22-26, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (HST) featuring the noted scholar, Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, author of *American Sutra*, a ground-breaking book published in 2019.

The study class series will cover the Foundations of American Buddhism, Buddhism in Hawaii during World War II, Religious Freedom and Buddhism during World War II, American Buddhism and Ecology, and Buddhist Social Engagement in a series of five two-hour lecture over five nights.

The study class series will be available online through a link available at the Buddhist Study Center. More information available at <http://bschawaii.org>.

## BWA News and Events

### Fujiko Motobu

LET'S ALL HOPE YOU ARE ALL IN GOOD HEALTH, IN MIND AND BODY: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Hawaii Betsuin has been closed for several months. Gatherings of more than ten persons were deemed illegal and scary too, so we have not been getting together at the temple. Meetings have been conducted through the internet and while communication and interaction among those involved in the internet find it exciting and meaningful, the seniors find it extremely difficult to manage such advanced skills. Poor vision problems and hearing deficit make it very difficult for the seniors, those 80 years and over to interact freely with others and the younger generation.

**BWA WOMEN WORK HARD:** Under the leadership of Tamayo Matsumoto, many BWA women busily sewed and created masks to prevent the spread of the deadly virus. They donated over 2,000 masks to needy organizations, and they are still busily sewing more masks. If you leave your home to go

shopping, you need to wear a mask. Masks also need to be washed and dried and kept sanitary, so you need to have several masks on hand.

The Betsuin Project Dana has some new cloth, reusable masks on hand if you need. Please contact Jo desMarets at 386-3819 or via email at [purpleldy2@aol.com](mailto:purpleldy2@aol.com). Some predictions have come out saying that this winter may be a very bad flu season and also see the comeback of the coronavirus; therefore, please be careful and stay well.

**ESHINNI KAKUSHINNI DAY SERVICES:** Our annual service celebration Eshinni and Kakushinni had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. The Dharma School students, teachers and parents were anticipating their day of service with much glee and happiness, but it had to be cancelled. We also expected to collect some donations, which we normally split and give to the youth organizations of Dharma School, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. Because the service was can

celled, we were unable to collect donations for the youth organizations.

The BWA really treasures the youth groups because they are our future Jodo Shinshu leaders and followers. Even though we did not have the service, the BWA will present the three groups gifts of \$200.00 each with our gratitude for all they do to assist in temple functions. Our youth groups do so much for us. Thank you.

**THANK YOU, BWA PRESIDENT DI-ANNE IDA AND HER OFFICERS AND STAFF:** It was very thoughtful of you to send a happy greeting card remembering Eshinni Kakushinni celebration service, which had to be cancelled. It is said that every hundred years, a disastrous event occurs in terms of serious illnesses, and 2020, this year, we are experiencing such a disaster. Therefore, it was very nice of you to remember us. In order to cheer us up you sent us the "cute" card. Thank you.

**2020 DANA COMMITTEE REPORT** from Liane Wong: The following are three year recipients: Project Dana \$2,000; aAio Foundation (3rd year) \$1,000; UH Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project (2nd year) \$1,000; Touch-A-Heart (1st year) \$1,000; Hawaii Foodbank \$1,000.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, a one-time donation of \$1,000 each was given to the following: Blood Bank Hawaii, Food 4 Keiki (Hawaii Foodbank); Hawaii Meals on Wheels; Hawaiian Humane Society; Lanakila Meals on Wheels; Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu; Domestic Violence Action Center. Earlier we donated \$1,000 to Family Promise when they cancelled meals and sleep overs at the participating temples.

## Let's Stay In Touch!

Phone: (808) 536-7044 / Email: [execdir@hawaiibetsuin.org](mailto:execdir@hawaiibetsuin.org)

Internet: [hawaiibetsuin.org](http://hawaiibetsuin.org) / Face Book and YouTube

### LET'S TALK --- SENSEI LISTENS

Many of us are feeling fearful and anxious because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please remember that we are all part of a temple ohana. If you would like to share what you're experiencing with one of us, please call or e-mail.

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We may not be able to pick up the phone all the time, but PLEASE leave a message and we will return your call! We are here for you, so don't hesitate to connect with us.



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## Radio Programs

**JUNE 2020**

**KZOO 1210 AM**

**Japanese Language**

**Saturday at 7:30 AM**

06.....Rev. Shingo Furusawa

13.....Rev. Hiromi Kawaji

20.....Rev. Yuika Hasebe

27.....Rev. Thomas Okano

All Betsuin  
services / activities

**CANCELLED**

**Until Further Notice**

The 10 am English services are  
primiered on YouTube 10 am  
Sunday mornings.

Go to the website  
[hawaiihetsuin.org](http://hawaiihetsuin.org) for a link

Memorial information is not available  
At this time. We apologize for the  
Inconvenience! Namo Amida Butsu!

All nursing home visits  
are cancelled  
until further notice.

Mahalo for your understanding...



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