



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

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AUGUST 2020
NEWSLETTER
of the

Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
hawaiibetsuin.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



Hello Everyone! Hawaii Betsuin has taken its first steps to gradually and thoughtfully resume temple services. On July 1st, the temple business and ministers' offices opened. The hours are now 9 AM to 4 PM from Monday through Friday. We are holding in-person funeral and memorial services which are limited to 9 people. We are also holding these services through Zoom from 10 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Saturday and 2 PM to 5:30 PM on Sundays. Our columbarium is also open for visitations by reservation.

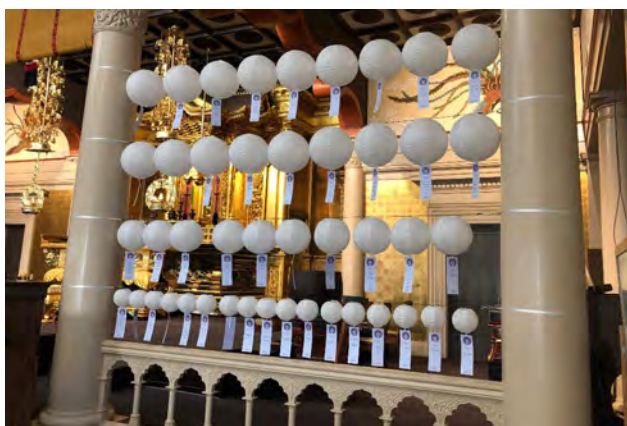
For Obon services, please call us to make an in-person (limit 9 people) or online Zoom service reservation. The temple is also offering members and friends an opportunity to memorialize their deceased loved ones by sponsoring a paper lantern that will be hung in the main temple through the Obon season. All lantern proceeds will help to offset the financial loss incurred during the COVID-19 shut-down and will assist with the temple's operations. For more information, please call us or visit the Betsuin's website at www.hawaiibetsuin.org.

Starting August 11th, Hongwanji Mission School will begin full in-person classes. They will be using the temple parking lot for a modified pick up and drop off.

Safety is our number one priority as we re-open our facilities, and we would like to thank everyone for complying with all of our new on-property procedures. The temple's re-opening committee, comprised of ministers, staff, and some board leadership, is working on phase 2, which is tentatively set to start in October. If at any time you have questions or concerns or if you have any suggestions, please feel free to email me at execdir@hawaiibetsuin.org or call me at the office, (808) 536-7044.

Ironically, although I'm always thinking about safety measures, I tend to forget to wear my mask when I leave my office. Colleen is constantly asking me "where's your mask?" Oops! Thanks, Colleen.

Let's all be more mindful in all we do. The temple ministers and staff are here to support and give you guidance during this critical time. We miss seeing all of you. We hope that you remain in good health and look forward to the day we can all meet again at the temple.



For more information on sponsoring a lantern, please call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044 or visit the Betsuin's website at www.hawaiibetsuin.org.

Dharma Message from Rev. Sol Kalu “Obon 2020”

The COVID-19 pandemic, now on its 6th month since initial outbreak has had a profound effect on the lives of many people around the world and have caused disruptions in the economy and society in general. To curtail the spread of the deadly virus, social distancing mandates have been initiated leading to suspensions of temple services and other religious events involving the gathering of large numbers of people.

This year, unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of one of the most anticipated and joyous event in the Hongwanji tradition and that is the Bon

Dance, when people gather in a festive mood and dance to the rhythm of drums and music as an expression of joy and gratitude in honor of departed loved ones. In the excitement and fun of the Bon dance, not even the heat of the summer season keeps people from enjoying the 2 night event held on temple grounds replete with food and refreshments and open temple visitations.

However, the Bon Dance is just one part of the observance of the Bon season and its cancellation in no way diminishes the importance and meaning of O-bon. It is a time of deep, profound reflection and remembrance of those who have preceded us to rebirth in the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. It is a time to express gratitude for the nurturing and caring we have received from our departed ancestors and loved ones that enable us to continue on with our lives. Even in the midst of a pandemic and other social problems presently besieging the nation, the

reason for its observance is never changed. The energy that some people have that is traditionally manifested through vigorous dancing and joy making is now rather channeled towards helping those who have fallen victim to COVID-19 and whose lives are disrupted by the pandemic's effects. What greater way is there to pay respect, honor and express our gratitude to our departed loved ones, who are now in the realm of the Buddha, than to live and practice the ideals of Wisdom and Compassion toward the betterment of the lives of our fellow human beings who are suffering in the world of samsara?

The pandemic notwithstanding, the tradition of the O-bon continues, for its real meaning and significance is what makes it an enduring and significant observance in the Buddhist spiritual and cultural tradition.



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044. There is no newsletter published for the month of August.

DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail (execdir@hawaii.betsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (536-0919). Address submissions to the **GOJI**. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. , Japanese section: Rev. Masanari Yamagishi, 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.

Observing Obon 2020!



You're invited to observe Obon by sponsoring a lantern in memory a loved on who has passed away.
Please call the office for more details!

President's Message from Dexter Mar

"Passing the Torch"



On July 25, the Betsuin sponsored the "Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lectures" featuring Prof. Kenneth Tanaka and his new book **JEWELS**. Over 100 attended the online "Zoom" event which drew folks from the Oahu, Neighbor Islands, US Mainland (including California, Washington, Chicago, Pennsylvania, Virginia), Canada, Japan, and Brazil.

The entire program will soon be available on the Hawaii Betsuin YouTube channel.

Along with introducing his new book, Sensei Ken shared inspiring thoughts on "Passing the Torch to the Next Generation," the ultimate goal of **JEWELS**: An Introduction to American Buddhism for Youth, Scouts, and the Young at Heart." (available at BDKAmerica.org)

Some of my favorite takeaways are:

1. Buddhism is growing in America. There's majority acceptance of Buddhism as a legitimate religion, although there's much stereotyping and misunderstanding of the basic teachings. This does not necessarily mean Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is growing in America. But it could.
2. Dr. Tanaka's "Why, What, Who, Whom, How" of Passing the Torch.
You'll have to watch the YouTube video for the details.
3. To "Pass the Torch" – Are you the light to kindle its flame? Youth learn through role models, so walk the talk and show them how a Buddhist lives through your actions.

If Buddhism has value to you and you want to share it with a world that is torn by fear and divisiveness, then check out the video.

SAVE THE DATE:

11th Annual Hawaii Betsuin Peace Walk: August 9th 2020

ONLINE on Sunday, August 9, 2020, The **Four-Petals Peace Partnership** of the Quaker Friends, Newman Center (Catholic), Church of the Crossroads (Protestant) and Buddhist Study Center will join with Hongwanji Buddhist Temple to hold the 11th annual peace walk commemorating the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and expressing gratitude for 27,375 days of nuclear restraint on Planet Earth.

Register Now for the 57th Annual Lay ONLINE Convention WORKSHOPS

Saturday, September 12, 2020 – 8am-4pm

Email request to Dexter Mar at kekela23@gmail.com. Include First & Last Name, mailing address, phone by AUGUST 23, 2020. More information at bit.ly/laycon2020.

Workshops

1. Homelessness & Affordable Housing: Scott Morishige, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
2. Fundraising Strategies: Stacy Bradshaw, Cindy Alm, Barry Shain (Hawaii Betsuin)
3. Introduction to Tai Chi: Mike Davis, Tai Chi Instructor
4. Lanakila Pacific: Rona Fukumoto, CEO, and Reid Yasunaga, Chef/Trainer
5. Shin Buddhist Teachings in a Changing World: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara, Rev. Richard Tennes
6. Opening Dharma Gates Through Sign Language: David Atcheson, Hawaii Betsuin

BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

BWA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The board is meeting monthly through the Zoom computer technology. Members stay at home and relay messages with one another, viewing everyone on the computer screen. For seniors, this is indeed a magical technology. I wonder what life would be like a hundred years from now. Aren't we fortunate, for we will all be in Ojodo by then. If any new issues are brought up at the BWA meeting on July 11, you will be informed.

WHAT TO REMEMBER: It

has been five months since the coronavirus virus epidemic threw us haywire, and we have not been able to go to the temple. We therefore have missed some of the very important six major services. Do you know what they are? Do you know what the six major services are? My mother implanted this into my mind when I was a child.

The six major services are the following:

First in **January is Hoonko**, Shinran Shonin's memorial day service which is January 16.

Second in **March is Spring Ohigan** when we celebrate for the beginning of spring.

April is Buddha Day, or Hanamatsuri, which is when we celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Third, **May 21 is Shinran Shonin's birthday, Gotan-E**, which is our May celebration.

Fourth, **June and July are Bon dance and Bon mairi** months when we honor the deceased.

Fifth is **Autumn Higan in September**, and Sixth is **Eitaikyo in November**,



when we honor all the past deceased members of the temple. My mother imbedded these six major services, also known in Japanese as "Rokudai hoyo" into me.

We have missed three of our major services, which are March Ohigan, May Gotan-E, and June-July Bon dance and bon mairi. The temple did not have services, therefore, envelopes were not sent to us. However, if you feel comfortable, why don't you send your donations to the temple as you would have done normally?

STAYING SAFE: According to Drs. Mehmet Oz and Mike Roizen, here are steps to help us avoid environmental toxins. 1) Stop microwaving plastic containers of any kind. BPA and BPS are found in food containers, and phthalates are used to make plastics more pliable. They are all hormone disruptors and are deposited into your food when you

zap plastics. Use glass or parchment papers and cover food you want to microwave. BPA is found in register receipts. Labels on canned food, drinks, shampoo, medical devices, and many other things so be sure to wash your hands whenever you handle anything. 2) Eliminate hormone-disrupting pesticides from your yard or garden. 3) Drink filtered tap

water, and not bottled water. Unfortunately one study discovered that virtually all bottled water is contaminated with bits of microplastic. Plastic contributes to health threatening metabolic and reproductive problems.

REMINDER: OCTOBER WILL BE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR BWA.

BUDDHIST PROVERBS:

from Lily Masuda

1. Shinjin ikiru chikara to naru: Shinjin—Faith gives strength to live
2. Heiwa taisetsu na nowa kokoro no yoku shiryoku: Heiwa—Recognizing greed in our heart is the work of Peace.

HUMOR: Mother to son, "What did you learn in school today?" Son, "Not much. She didn't teach us much. I have to go back tomorrow."

Dharma School News

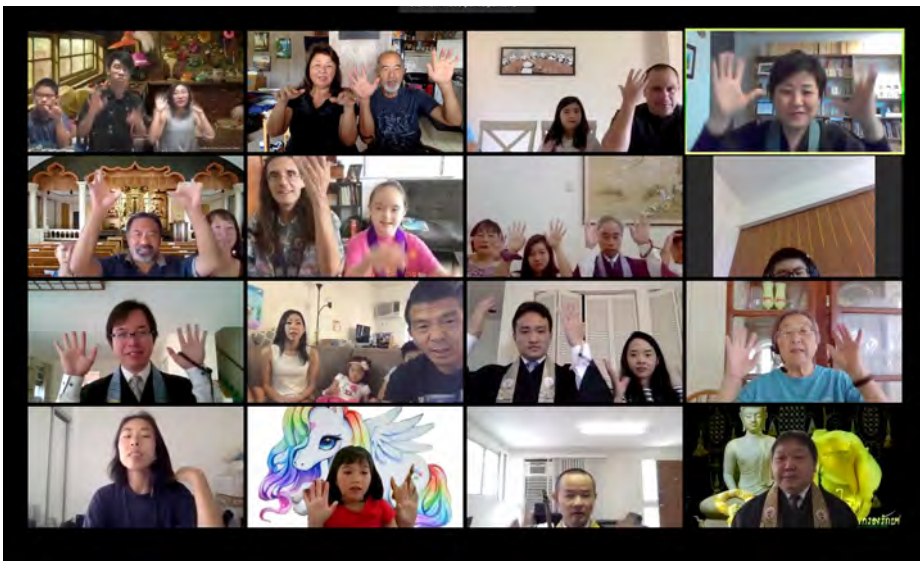
Debbie Kubota

Virtual Betsuin Dharma School Services May 10 through June 28

During these challenging times, our Dharma School ohana was not able to gather in person, but we were still able to “see” each other every Sunday, thanks to our Virtual Betsuin Dharma School Services. We had a very successful run of 8 Sunday services during the months of May and June. Heartfelt mahalo nui loa to Thanh Giang, who provided/coordinated the Zoom platform for us to use for these services, and helped to communicate the link to all of our Dharma School families. A huge shout out to Reverend Yuika Hasebe who took the lead in coordinating and conducting these services, engaging all of our Betsuin ministers to take on different roles each Sunday, doing the Vandana Ti-Sarana, leading the Sutra Chanting and sharing Dharma Messages. Many thanks to our wonderful ministers including Rinban Hagio, Reverend Kalu, Reverend Furusawa and Reverend Yamagishi. We also appreciate our amazing Dharma School students, who stepped up to emcee, lead gathas and share aspirations — Talin, Ellen, Byron, Cora, Vincent, Dean, Kim, Jayce, Lindsey, Sarene and Chris. Our participation grew from having only Betsuin families, then adding Honolulu District families, then Oahu District families and finally Neighbor Island families. It was a fun way to connect with other Dharma School students and families across the islands!



Sharing some photos of our virtual services, we had so much fun connecting this way.



Here is an update for Dharma School activities planned for the coming months. (Note that depending upon the overall COVID-19 situation, these dates are subject to change.) After our summer break, here are our tentative plans:

- **Virtual Dharma School Services** on Sundays, September 13 and 20.
- **Honolulu Dharma School Registration Day at HMS** - Sunday, September 27.
- **First Day of Dharma School** Service and Classes at the Betsuin - Sunday, October 4.

Wishing all of our Dharma School families a safe and fun summer. Stay healthy and well. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in September!

57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION (VIRTUAL)

of the Hawaii State Federation of Honpa Hongwanji Lay Associations
September 11-12, 2020
"BUILDING HEALTHY SANGHAS IN A CHANGING WORLD"

Bulletin #2

Website: bit.ly/laycon2020

July 27, 2020



Registration (By Temples)

Primary Deadline: Sunday, August 23, 2020

Add-On/Correction/Payment Deadline: Friday September 4, 2020



If you are interested in attending, please contact your temple president!

Registration should be submitted by temples. If possible, submit all temple delegate /observer /guest names by **August 23rd**. It is most important that all temple delegates' names are submitted by August 23rd for credential purposes. Temple observer and guest add-ons or changes can be submitted by **September 4th**. Updated credential lists for the business meeting will be distributed electronically prior to the start of convention.

Registration Forms:

Temple leaders can download electronic versions of the temple registration form from the convention website. Forms can be filled out electronically or by hand and submitted via email or USPS mail. The planning committee's preferred form of submission is "editable/electronic" via Microsoft Excel if possible, however, PDFs and hard copies may be submitted as well.

Fees:

Registration fee for delegates, observers and guests is **\$10**. This cost includes an electronic convention booklet. A hard copy booklet can be ordered for **\$5**. Hard copy booklets are recommended for those who are not comfortable with using a PDF files during a virtual meeting or who will have trouble printing out multiple pages. **Payment deadline is September 4th**. Methods of payment are check or electronic transfer via PayPal. Checks should be made payable to "United Lay Association of Honolulu." For electronic transfers via PayPal, please use this link: paypal.me/honolululaycon.

Types of Attendees:

Delegates: Determined by 2019 membership counts (See next page)

Observers: Non-delegate temple members and leaders, future temple leaders, etc.

Guests: These individuals may only attend sessions on Saturday, September 12. These attendees include ministers, non-temple members sponsored by the temple, and other temple members interested in Saturday's sessions.

It's not in the Betsuin's parking lot...
It's on YouTube!

Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii presents Bon Dance 2020

(Experience)

Due to COVID-19, we are not allowed to hold Bon Dance as usual. However, we've teamed up to observe Bon Dance online. Guided and inspired by Bishop Eric Matsmoto, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii proudly announces:

**Online Hongwanji
Bon Dance Experience!**

**Date: Saturday,
August 15, 2020**

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**Platform: YouTube –
Honpa Hongwanji
Mission of Hawaii channel**

An Online Bon Dance Experience will be available through YouTube to share a taste of Bon Dance with you. Please prepare yourself for dancing Tanko Bushi and Joy & Peace. An instructional video will be available on YouTube!



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

01 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
08 Rev. Masanari Yamagishi
15 Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
22 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
29 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**All Betsuin
services and
activities are
CANCELLED
Until Further
Notice**

The 10 am English
services are
premiered on
YouTube



10 am Sunday
mornings.

Go to the website
hawaiibetsuin.org
for a link

Please call the office
at (808) 536-7044
if you have any
questions.
We are here
for YOU!

In Memoriam



February - June 2020

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

01/14	KUDO, Kenneth Kazumasa (91)	04/09	HAYAMA, Wallace Shigeki (100)
02/02	INASAKI, Glenn Hidemi (67)	05/14	ITAI, Akira (92)
02/10	NAKAYAMA, Roy Sadao (76)	05/14	NISHIHARA, Esther Kiyoko (92)
02/10	YANO, Joyce Masako (91)	05/17	KAWABATA, Janet Yukiko (77)
02/11	IZUO, Shizuko (105)	05/23	KIRA, Marylyn Satsuki (98)
02/13	KAMIMURA, Masao (97)	05/29	WADA, Florence Sachiko (78)
02/13	KURIMA, Vera Yuriko (89)	05/30	MATSUMOTO, Hiroshi (88)
02/14	OKADA, Irene Toshie (77)		
02/17	AOKI, Yoshiyuki (99)	06/05	KAWASAKI, James Masao (88)
02/25	NOGUCHI, Violet Mitsuko (99)	06/06	SATO, Glenn Shigeru (68)
		06/10	NAKATA, Edna Hisako (84)
03/04	KURANISHI, Calvin Satoru (71)	06/12	YOSHIZAWA, Leatrice Emiko (88)
03/17	IWANAGA, Yoshie (94)	06/13	OJIRI, Helen Toshie (89)
03/17	TSURU, Kathleen Naomi (64)	06/18	NISHIMOTO, Fusako (93)
03/22	KOGA, Glenn Jiro (71)	06/23	HAYASHI, Chiseko (97)
03/22	NOMURA, Jean Sachiko (69)	06/26	MORITA, Helen Harumi (94)
03/30	OKADA, Richard Masahiro (79)	06/26	YAMAMOTO, Jean Kiyoko (80)
		06/27	KINOSHITA, Masako (92)

**Nursing Home Services
are cancelled until
further notice**



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 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