



1727 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

# GOJI

Vol. 76 No. 10



OCTOBER 2021  
NEWSLETTER

of the

Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin  
[hawaiihetsuin.org](http://hawaiihetsuin.org)

2021 Slogan:

Building  
Healthy Sanghas:  
Nurturing Empathy  
and Respect

BETSUIN  
MINISTERS

Chief Minister  
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

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

## Buddha of Our Voice

There are many altars at the Hawaii Betsuin. At the center of the altars in the main temple and columbarium, there are Amida Buddha statues, but in the case of the Annex temple and Naibutsu, Namo Amida Butsu is written in Kanji in the center of each altar.

In Shin Buddhist tradition, Amida Buddha is often called the “Buddha of our Voice.” It is because when we vocalize “Namo Amida Butsu” the Buddha is with us.

Now we are having difficult situations due to COVID-19. We have restrictions about meeting with others, so we may feel loneliness. However, please NEVER forget that Amida Buddha is always with us as our voice “Namo Amida Butsu.”

Let us get through this situation with the recitation of “Namo Amida Butsu.” In Gassho.



## The Current Scoop: Online Sunday Services Via Zoom and YouTube!

Beginning in July 2021, Hawaii Betsuin began presenting a 10 a.m. service live via Zoom. Recognizing that not everyone uses Zoom, we also “premiere” a pre-recorded service at 11 a.m. on YouTube. The YouTube service incorporates the minister’s message from the previous Sunday’s Zoom service.

There are advantages to each service format. The 10 a.m. Zoom service provides for a shared, live experience and 10 minutes of fellowship time after the service. The 11 a.m. service includes some elements that are not part of the Zoom service -- for example, the availability of text captions for the Dharma message (mahalo, ministers!) and gathas set to photos. The 11 a.m. services remain on our YouTube channel for on-demand viewing. To access the services:

- For the 10 a.m. Zoom service, contact the office to sign up for the Betsuin Bulletin weekly email or visit our website calendar at <https://hawaiihetsuin.org/calendar/> -- we post details, including Zoom connection information, as soon as it’s available.
- For the 11 a.m. pre-recorded service, visit our YouTube channel. Just search for “honpa hongwanji hawaii hetsuin” at [youtube.com](https://youtube.com).

Please also note that Dharma School is back in session! And that means 9 a.m. Dharma School services at via Zoom. For more information, please email [jovieyosh@gmail.com](mailto:jovieyosh@gmail.com) or [dekub88@gmail.com](mailto:dekub88@gmail.com). Everyone is invited to the Dharma School online services.  
- David Atcheson

## Dharma Message: "Passing the ocean of suffering"

Rev. Yuika Hasebe

When you listen to a Dharma message, how do you listen? There are three important guiding points to remember when listening to a Dharma message. They are:

1. You should listen as if you are listening for the very first time.
2. You should listen as if the message is for you alone.
3. You should listen as if this is the last time you will ever do so in your life.

Have you been listening to Dharma Messages following the three points?

I was reading a booklet called "SHINKO" which was published in 1957 and edited by selected ministers and volunteers of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. In the first issue of "SHINKO," there was a message from Gomonshu Kosho Ohtani, several messages from different ministers as well as an introduction of Kyodan presidents. In the booklet, Rev. Kakusho Izumi wrote the following to explain Amida Buddha's calling.

We can clearly hear Amida Buddha's calling voice for us (an omission) "You are my only child. I am your parent who completed the Vows to save you from the suffering of birth and death. You don't need to hesitate and feel restrained. Most of the time, your life is filled with various kinds of desires, but you are passing the ocean of suffering on the boat of Great Vows: Namo Amida Butsu." (Translation: Hasebe)

This last sentence struck me because it tells me that I am passing the ocean of suffering now. It is not the past tense nor the future tense. Rev. Izumi wrote the sentence in the present progressive. It means it is happening right now, and I am passing the ocean of suffering at this moment. Then I realized that I have not listened to the Dharma, using the three-point guide, especially number 2 and 3. It made me realize that I was listening to the message as someone's story, and I thought I could listen to the Dharma anytime because I was ignorant enough to think I would never die or would live several more years even if I don't have any guarantee.

When we don't hear the Dharma as if it is the first time, or that it is only for me, or think that we would have other



opportunities to listen whenever we want, we are not truly understanding and listening to the Dharma from the bottom of our heart.

In the one of the hymns, Shinran Shonin says:

**"Were it not for the ship  
of Amida's Vow,  
How could I cross the ocean  
of painful existence?"**

At this moment, while you are reading this Goji, you are traveling and passing the ocean of suffering on the boat of Amida Buddha's Great Compassionate Vow. We are all travelers in this uncertain world.



# 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 OCTOBER.

### 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 (808-536-0919). 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 The Open Heart Project, Buddhist Women's Association, Pacific Buddhist Academy, Betsuin Board and Social Concerns, and the Kyodan.*

contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.



**Mahalo for your  
Participation  
and Support  
for the  
Hawaii Betsuin!**

# President's Message from Dexter Mar



## Answering Amida's Call

By Dexter Mar

"Of all of us,  
Good and evil together,  
Who hear and awaken to Amida's Great Vow,  
The Buddha says: we are persons of shinjin.  
Those who comprehend this completely  
Are like a white lotus blooming". Shinran Shonin

Introducing Hawaii Betsuin's Interim Executive Director: Dave Atcheson

Mahalo for being our white lotus blooming and building a strong foundation for Hawaii Betsuin to move forward.

Dave and wife Penny are relative newcomers to Hawaii Betsuin, having moved to Honolulu in 2011 with their daughter, Koki, who was joining Pacific Buddhist Academy as a freshman. Having been Hongwanji members from Seattle Betsuin, they comfortably participated in Hawaii Betsuin life immediately. Dave has served on the Board of Directors since 2014, even volunteering for the Executive Committee as Board Secretary. He's active on Kyodan Committees (Archives, Social Concerns, and Green Hongwanji), as well as serving as webmaster of the Hawaii Betsuin and Hawaii Kyodan websites. Dave graduated from Stanford University with a degree in English/Creative Writing in 1987 and has held positions at Microsoft, Conservation Northwest, and University of Washington.



On October 1, as Interim Executive Director, Dave will focus on essential temple operations supporting the ministerial staff and business functions. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors will support him throughout this transition period until a permanent Executive Director is hired (target date is 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2022). As of September 7, Dave has been training with current Executive Director, Stacy Bradshaw, on these essential functions.

Now is the time for others to follow his example.

Amidst massive societal turbulence with COVID-19, climate instability, racial and economic imbalances, the Hawaii Betsuin is entering a huge leadership transition.

In the next 6 months, we will have a new Executive Director, new President, Officers, and Board of Directors. Our temple has a strong financial position due to a solid fundraising team and Budget & Finance Committee. The Capital Campaign is on track to re-purpose our facilities. Our ministerial team continues to adapt to pandemic inspired virtual spiritual services.

The Board of Directors and Officers election will be held in November, by mail ballot.

Become a white lotus blossom by helping the temple find the next generation of leaders. Who do you know that would be a good Executive Director, President, Officer, or Board member? Perhaps you would like to get more involved. Please let me know! ([kekela23@gmail.com](mailto:kekela23@gmail.com))

Be a part of this unique legacy of awakening to Amida's call and become a white lotus bloom.

Namo Amida Butsu!



## BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

### OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

There are six major services in Jodo Shinshu. There are Hoonko, Shinran's memorial service in January, and Spring and Autumn Higan in March and September when the day and night are equally divided, also called spring and autumn equinox. In May we celebrate the birth of Shinran, known as Gotan E. June or July is O Bon and we celebrate it with bon dance. This is to indicate the story of Mokuren's mother who was in Hell because of her greed, and when she changed her attitude she went up to Nirvana and Mokuren was so happy he danced, which became known as Bon odori. And the sixth service is in November, and it is known as Eitai-kyo, a service dedicated to all the past deceased members. Therefore, remember the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November of each year. January, July and November are the services to honor the deceased. March, May and September are the months and services to rejoice upon our living. We honor those who have died, but Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism is a religion for the living. Take a positive attitude and live a good life. Recite Namo Amida Butsu whenever you can.

### HAWAII BETSUIN BOARD ELECTION IS A MONTH AWAY

Ten officers, ten directors and representatives from all affiliated organizations make up the Betsuin Board which serves for two years. Election is slated for the month of November. It was a walk-in voting practice, however, due to the coronavirus, perhaps the voting

procedure may need to be altered as mail-in ballots.

The candidates for officers and directors have not been announced. The qualifications have not been announced. Everyone coming to the temple is required to wear a mask, but do not misunderstand, the masks are not to keep you from talking.

When the candidates who will be running for office are publicized, their credentials will be exposed. Compared to the 1970's when I first joined Hawaii Betsuin, there were approximately two thousand Goji dues paying members. Today that has depreciated to approximately one thousand members. In fifty years we have lost about half of our members.

We need leadership to raise our membership and continue to keep them growing because the seniors will leave us sooner or later. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is a religion for the living.

With the pre-school, Mission School, and PBA (Pacific Buddhist Academy) in existence at Hawaii Betsuin, the membership should be expanded and the students should be getting an excellent religious education. Perhaps more awards and recognitions should be extended to the outstanding students. It would be "a dream come true" concept if all the students who attend the schools will remain devoted Buddhists throughout their lifetimes.



### HUMOR: HOW ABOUT A SURPRISING GOOD LAUGH. WE NEVER KNOW CANDIDATES, DO WE?

It is time to elect a new leader, and only our votes count. Here are three candidates.

Candidate A. Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologists. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks eight to ten martinis a day.

Candidate B. He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college and drinks a quart of whisky every evening.

Candidate C. He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and never committed adultery.

Which of these candidates would be your choice? Candidate A, Candidate B, or Candidate C?

Candidate A is Franklin D. Roosevelt; B is Winston Churchill, and C is Adolf Hitler.

\* \* \*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, REV. TOSHIMA. He was born on October 18, some years ago.

## BWA News and Events continued

### From BWA President, Cindy Alm

#### Upcoming Events:

- Ministers' Appreciation Day, Oct. 10
- 4th BWA General Membership Meeting, Oct 31, 11:00 a.m.
- Reminder: 14th BWA Hawaii State Conference, April 23 – 24, 2022, on Maui. Please contact Florence Wasai to put your name on the list, or for more information.

#### Highlights:

**BWA Website.** The Betsuin BWA Website is now public. Go to [hawaiiibetsuinbwa.org](http://hawaiiibetsuinbwa.org). Featured stories and articles are about our Make Me Happi! project, in which the knowledge and joy of sewing happi coats was shared. Volunteers made children's and adult happi, and tote bags, using donated and repurposed fabrics in the spirit of mottainai – to not allow things to go to waste and to make the most of what we have with humility and appreciation. Archive collages, including historical photos of the sewing ladies, are also featured on the website.

#### Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed

**Soldiers.** Thank you to the many volunteers who have been writing wonderful notes to attach to our shipments of Aloha shirts to the nonprofit organization that sends Aloha shirts to deployed military. Mahalo to each of you for your support of this project in whatever form it is expressed: donated shirts, personal notes, or kind thoughts and wishes! All are gratefully received. Please contact Jo desMarets if you wish to participate.

**Don't Forget!**  
The BWA has beautiful handmade Happi Coats for Children and Adults for sale in the Betsuin office!

Please call (808) 536-7044 for more information!

**Peace Day Bell Ringing.** Thank you to our BWA members who came together with other Hongwanji members, and the broader community, to participating in the Ring Your Bell for Peace celebration on Sept. 21 hosted by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, the United Nations Association of Hawaii and KTUH radio, to promote peace.

## Aloha Means Goodbye... and Hello!



Effective October 1, 2021, Stacy Bradshaw has stepped down from her role as Executive Director. The Board of Directors

while the Betsuin works to identify a permanent replacement. Hawaii Betsuin will work with our community networks and professional resources to find someone for the permanent role who has the necessary technical and administrative skills, as well as the heart, to fill this important role for the Betsuin sangha.

overseeing temple facilities, ensuring strong fiscal management, supporting our members, and most recently, guiding us through the challenges of the pandemic. Stacy spearheaded important grants for Hawaii Betsuin, and launched us on a strong, successful path with the capital improvement campaign currently underway.

has appointed David Atcheson as the interim Executive Director to assume management responsibilities



Stacy has built a lasting impact during her 15 years working at the Hawaii Betsuin – most markedly during her 7 years as its Executive Director. She has been instrumental in sustaining its resilience as an organization and as a community,

Members of the Hawaii Betsuin Board of Directors express their deepest gratitude for Stacy's hard work and dedication and are working alongside her to ensure a seamless transition from her role in administration to continuing to be present as an active member of our Hawaii Betsuin community.

## Looking Back: 50 Years Ago in the Goji...

David Atcheson

We can't get in a time machine and go back 50 years, but it's still a trip to look at a 50-year-old Hongwanji Newsletter issue. That's gotten a little easier to do thanks to a combined Betsuin and statewide Archives Committee effort that digitized the Goji archive. Here are a few things I learned from the October 1971 newsletter:

- The temple used to hold an annual Rededication Dinner, a tradition apparently started in 1961 to promote fellowship and rededication to faith and temple. The attendance at the 1971

dinner was over 500. The theme was "Let Truth Live," reflecting the statewide theme that year of "Let Truth Live in Action."

- Among the ministers serving at Betsuin were Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani (later to serve as Bishop), Rev. Shigenori Makino, and Rev. Tatsuo Muneto.
- The bishop was Rev. Kanmo Imamura (son of the second bishop, Rev. Yemyo Imamura). He wrote an extensive article about problems

facing the "Hawaii Hongwanji." Near the beginning, he wrote, "in contemplating the role of the church today, a grave question arises as to just how vitally the Nembutsu plays a part in our lives. Is the Teaching merely a theory and not a reality? Are we so occupied with the daily relative crises that we forget our course?"

- The Honpa Hongwanji Sunday School Teachers Association (HHSSTA) was about to hold a 3-day clinic at Camp Kokokahi.

• A clip-and-return form allowed one to get on the mailing list for the English Goji, the Japanese Goji, or both. There were also a few ads: florist, upholstery shop, auto loans, bank, etc.

- A dozen couples were listed in a calendar of weddings.

• The Buddhist women's groups, the Fujinkai and the Upasika Society, were referenced more than once for donations -- to the Ministerial Training Fund and the Girl Scouts, respectively. The Upasika Society was also due to hold a fashion show at the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel together with a fellowship hour and luncheon.

## Betsuin DIALOGUE Project Meeting on November 11

"Dialogue... is the collective compassion for the common good. It is meeting with meaning, participation and purpose, speech in the service of others... we might not get the correct answers, but we get closer to asking the right questions..."

— from *'What If'* by Amanda Gorman, 2019



**YOU ARE INVITED** to the second meeting of the Hawaii Betsuin DIALOGUE Project! If you are interested in exploring social issues with others through a Buddhist lens, then the Hawaii Betsuin DIALOGUE Project is for you!

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 11, 2021, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, and alternating second Thursdays thereafter (i.e., in 2022: January 13, March 10, etc.)

**WHERE:** Hawaii Betsuin, 1727 Pali Highway, where we hope to dialogue in person, room TBA!

**WHAT:** TBA, topic and brief readings (not whole books!) to be selected by DIALOGUE Project participants, all suggestions welcomed! At the inaugural meeting of the DIALOGUE Project in September, participants enjoyed discussing readings related to *Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists*, by Chenxing Han. Ms. Han will be the featured speaker for Betsuin's 22nd Annual Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lecture on October 16, 2021.

**TO REGISTER:** Please go to (<https://forms.gle/m67PxJ4xov4BeXvSA>) and complete the Google Form to receive the readings and meeting location or (if necessary) a Zoom link. The DIALOGUE Project is an initiative of the HHHB Social Concerns Committee.



**Dial-A-Dharma  
Message  
(Recorded message)**

**English  
(808-536-2456)**

**Japanese  
(808-354-0261)**



## Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

## September Dharma School Services/Activities



On Sunday, September 12, we welcomed our Dharma School students and families back for our 2021-2022 Dharma School year. We had hoped to offer hybrid sessions (in person and online), however, due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant, we had to continue our offerings via Zoom.

It was great to see everyone again after the summer break. We welcomed students from the Hawaii Betsuin as well as Jikoen Hongwanji. Our theme was Grandparents' Day. We asked our students to invite their grandparents to join us for the service. We were happy

to have Reverend Daido Baba and his two sons, Dojun and Doken, join us for the service and welcomed them to our Hawaii Betsuin Dharma School ohana. Our emcee was Cora Saito and her brother Vincent read an aspiration. Reverend Sol Kalu led us in the Vandana Ti-Sarana, Reverend Shingo Furusawa chanted Gassho to Amida, and fittingly, our minister who most recently became a grandfather, Rinban Hagio, delivered a wonderful Dharma message about respecting your elders who have the wisdom of life.

For our Dharma School activity, we asked our students to share what they did over the summer and share a photo of or introduce their grandparents and share some special things about them. For their summer activities, some students traveled

for sporting camps, played on sports teams, visited their grandparents on neighbor islands, went to summer school, planted a vegetable garden, or worked. A couple of families had their grandparents join us for today's service/activities (the Nakamuras from Jikoen invited their grandparents, Reverend Bruce and Leslie Nakamura, and the Brennans invited their grandmother, Barbara Brennan). It was great to have them join us. Both families shared that their grandmothers made them special meals. Others shared that they have been disappointed that their grandparents live in another state or country and they are unable to visit them because of the pandemic. Others are happy that they live with their grandparents or live nearby and they are glad to see them all the time. No matter where their grandparents



live, they were reminded to treasure every precious moment with their grandparents.

Future services/activities in September will focus on the themes Peace Day (September 19) and Autumn Higan (September 26).

Our services and activities are open to all generations from across our islands and on the mainland. Feel free to join us, anytime! Please contact our Betsuin office if you are interested. Hope to see you in person or online with us very soon!



**Radio Programs  
OCTOBER 2021  
KZOO 1210 AM  
Japanese Language  
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

02 Rev. Shingo Furusawa  
09 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio  
16 Rimban Kazunori Takahashi  
23 Rev. Shinkai Murakami  
30 Rev. Shingo Furusawa

## NOTICE:

The Betsuin is scheduling in-person funerals and memorial services with a limited number of in-person attendees. Other service options are available. Please call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044 for current information and to plan for your families needs.

### Information Regarding Sunday Services

The 10 am English service, and the 8:00 am and 1:00 pm Japanese Sunday services have suspended in-person services due to the increase in COVID cases. The 10:00 AM English service continues on Zoom during this time.

For current information on all Betsuin services, please call the Betsuin office at (808)536-7044 or see the Betsuin Bulletin sent out via email on Fridays. The Zoom link is available in the bulletin or you may call the office to get the link. Zoom services may also be viewed on our YouTube channel. These premiere on Sundays at 11:00 am.

## In Memoriam



## AUGUST 2021

The Hawai'i Betsuin extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members and friends find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

1/24/2021 SASAKI, Ellen Keiko (96)  
7/24/2021 AOKI, Jean Mie (102)  
7/28/2021 OKINO, Burton Mitsuo (88)

### AUGUST 2021

01 FURUKAWA, Ruth Sachiko (89)  
03 KAWASAKI, Dorothy Akiko (87)  
03 NAKAHARA, Tomie (100)  
10 YOSHIDA, Shinichi (98)  
16 SHIMAMURA, Florence Mitsue (91)  
17 SODETANI, Gladys Keiko (86)  
17 SUZUKI, Nancy Nagako (90)  
18 OBA, Steve Mitsuo (91)  
19 SATOGATA, Matsue (99)  
23 SHIMABUKURO, Ellen Yaeko (73)

### Nursing Home Services are cancelled until further notice.

#### 2021 Memorial Service Schedule

2021 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2020: 1st year	2009: 13th year	1989: 33th year
2019: 3rd year	2005: 17th year	1972: 50th year
2015: 7th year	1997: 25th year	1922: 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