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NEWSLETTER

of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
hawaiibetsuin.org



2022 Slogan:

*"Building Healthy
Sanghas: Connecting
with Others"*

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Tatsuo Muneto

Fuku-Rimban
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Sol Kalu
Rev. Shingo Furusawa

Monshu's New Year's Greeting

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

Over these past couple of years, we have had to adjust our lives in accordance with the scale of the spread of COVID-19. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

This infectious disease has not only greatly affected the life of each one of us, but also revealed many issues that had been contained in our society. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear of the fact that we cannot see the truth because we are too attached to our own thought. Therefore, it is only natural that conflicts and divisions come about in a society in which those who, like us, fundamentally self-centered beings, act in accordance based on one's own thought.

In the following wasan poem, Shinran Shonin deeply reflected on himself and described what we humans are like,

Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land way,
It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.
This self is false and insincere;
I completely lack a pure mind.

(Hymns of the Dharma-ages)

As the wasan shows, we are basically incapable of accepting the reality of this world, such as, dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. And because of this we constantly suffer. Only through being aware of and appreciating Amida Buddha's compassionate and salvific working, are we enabled to accept our true self. Shinran Shonin clarified that such ignorance is the very reason why Amida Buddha's salvific working has reached every one of us. Keeping in mind that we are always embraced in Amida's compassionate Light, let us live each day to the fullest, even though we have yet to see the end of the tunnel.

I feel truly assured hearing that many of you have been making efforts to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching within the greater society through various and innovative ways despite the current situation. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2022

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha





Warren Tamamoto MD

Happy New Year! Akemashite
Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!



GOJI

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DEADLINE:

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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.

President's New Year's Message Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2022. Last year, as I wrote my message, we had reason to hope that the year 2021 would be one in which we would have control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, millions of people in our country (and more around the world) are still unvaccinated and therefore susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Also, the natural world is unpredictable - with new variants of the coronavirus appearing in different areas of the world. We do not know what effect the new variants will have on the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the vaccines have proven to be very effective at preventing or reducing the chance of developing severe COVID-19 disease. They are also proven to be very safe in all of the trials and young children starting at the age of 5 can now be safely vaccinated. The COVID-19 situation is much better than a year ago at this time and it is very likely that it will continue to get better.

Our theme and slogan for 2022, "Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others" is particularly appropriate for 2022. Buddhism teaches that everything is interconnected. No one is completely independent of other people or the environment surrounding them. We are connected with and dependent on everything around us, for example the the air that we breathe. As we carefully re-open our temples, let's all make an extra effort to connect with our Sangha, especially those we have not seen for a year or two.

The past two years have been difficult for all of our temples. At least one temple (Papaaloa Hongwanji) will close its temple doors permanently in

2022 and consolidate with Honohina Hongwanji. The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only factor in Papaaloa Hongwanji's closure, but it certainly hastened the process. Buddhism teaches us that all things are impermanent, everything changes, and that "the root of suffering is attachment". However, Shinran reminded us that we are all "bonbu" - foolish beings. We still have attachments. So it is still difficult for us to have many fond memories of a place and time in our past and not feel sadness that it will not be there the next time we visit. We can still be grateful that Papaaloa Hongwanji shared Buddhist values with the Hamakua community for over 100 years and during that time planted the seeds of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in many people, including this writer. Namo Amida Butsu.

As I reflect on our theme, "Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others", I start with being grateful that Amida Buddha, through his Teachings, is with me and wants me to be happy. I am grateful that I was introduced to Buddhism by the good fortune of being born to a wonderful family in a little plantation town on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Grateful that Papaaloa Hongwanji was built by the issei and nisei in spite of severe financial hardship. Grateful that Aiea Hongwanji was there for us when Claire and I were looking for a temple for our family. Grateful that I have made a connection with so many of you through our involvement in the Hawaii Sangha. Let's continue to nurture these connections.

With Gassho,
Warren Tamamoto MD
President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

2022 Bishop's New Year Message

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

The New Year has always been a time of hope, renewal and new beginnings. I am hopeful that the year 2022 will be brighter and happier for you and your Ohana of family and friends, and all of us! Needless to say, the Pandemic has adversely affected all of our lives in various ways including the feeling of isolation and disconnect. However, let us not despair. Please always fully understand that Amida Buddha as Namo Amida Butsu is always with us embracing us as Great Compassion. There is a Jodo Shinshu expression "Ki-Hou-Ittai no Namo Amida Butsu" or "Namo Amida Butsu of the oneness of Amida Buddha and those to be saved." For this reason, we are able to be born in the Pure Land to attain Enlightenment and, even in the here and now, we are never truly all alone!

Further, there is another dynamic in which we can appreciate the truth that we are always supported by others and thus never alone. I recall the life of an Oahu Hongwanji member who was always so grateful for the food she ate every day. She couldn't help, but place her hands together in gassho/anjali to express her appreciation and gratitude to the plants and animals for their gift of life and all others who played a role in her receiving the precious gift of the meals she ate each day. She was aware of the so many other lives which surrounded and supported her. She had to try to live her life as best she could out of appreciation and gratitude.

However, on the plane of human social interaction, yes, COVID has severely impacted our ability to

interact with each other even among family members and as a Sangha at temple. I know many of you miss so dearly being able to come to the temple, the physical symbolic home of Amida Buddha. As the situation with the Pandemic slowly improves, please consider gathering, once again, at your temple. We must still be cautious especially with the discovery of the Omicron Variant, but when the time is right, please join us at the temple both current members and newcomers. Let us reconnect and connect with each other! The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including your temple needs you! Please remember, there are three treasures not only two.

As we begin a new year, this would be the opportune time for us to reconnect with family and friends. Depending on the situation with the Pandemic, it might not be physically just yet, but there are other ways to connect such as writing down (or video recording) your most precious thoughts, wishes and aspirations as in a journal or as letters as did Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni, and even Shinran Shonin. What is that which is most precious to you? What are the best memories you have? Why is the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple so important to you? Would it make you happy if your family becomes part of the Hongwanji Sangha?



Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

Let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2022 which is "Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others." Of course, this "Connecting with Others" is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but with others around the world too. This year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar highlights His Eminence Kojun Ohtani's "Our Pledge" which more concretely shares why and how we may connect with others. In this New Year, let me encourage you to begin reciting Gomonsu-sama's "Our Pledge" on a daily basis.

To conclude, please join me to recite Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namo Amida Butsu. Thank you and Happy New Year from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali,
Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

President's Message



Through Beginner's Eyes

By Dexter Mar

Kalama Sutta

Wise words of Sakyamuni Buddha to the Kalama clan.

"Kalamas, when you yourselves know: 'These things are good; these things are not blamable; these things are praised by the wise; undertaken and observed, these things lead to benefit and happiness,' enter on and abide in them."

Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Welcome to the 2022-23 Hawaii Betsuin Leadership!

On January 30, 2022 your newly elected Officer and Directors will be inducted for their 2-year term as the Hawaii Betsuin Board of Directors. Congratulations and Mahalo for stepping forward in your devotion to the legacy of Hawaii Betsuin and Hawaii Hongwanji.

Please support your leaders in this new beginning as 10 of the 24 Directors did not serve in the past two years. And seven are first-timers! Fresh eyes with "Kalama glasses" and new voices to share different perspectives will certainly improve group decision-making. Board meetings have been a respectful forum for all voices to be heard in considerate decision-making.

Hawaii Betsuin leadership carries a substantial responsibility for protecting and nurturing our iconic 100+ year temple, statewide headquarters, and two schools with a combined enrollment of almost 500 students. Like any corporation, a multitude of local, state, and federal regulations must be managed, as well as cultivating both volunteer and financial support from the members and community.

So please recognize, help, and encourage each of them during their term. The results of the recent election of officers and listing of the newly elected Board members is included in this GOJI on page 13. One of the best ways to support Hawaii Betsuin is through VOLUNTEERING to help in daily operations and/or committees. This is a true expression of "everyday Buddhism".

The outgoing Board continues to prepare for the transition "hand-off". Fortunately 2/3 of the Board are veterans who will be addressing the 2022 Budget, Executive Director Search, support of the new Rimban, the 2018 Audit recommendations, and the "revival" of in-person spiritual, fellowship, and events programs.

Thank you for your continued membership and/or affection for Hawaii Betsuin!



Rev Yuika Hasebe

Happy New Year! With the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha, I hope all of you are having a peaceful new year. Thank you very much for your support of Hawaii Betsuin and understanding all of the changes.

Our world is still in extreme chaos with the COVID pandemic, earthquakes, tornados, and violence. In such challenging times for all human beings and earth, there is so much Buddhism can contribute. If we take whatever we are receiving for granted, we will never appreciate what we have. It also means that we never think of others, who don't have what we have. If your life is happy and you just take it for granted, you will never be able to think about people who are suffering.

The teaching of Nembutsu makes us realize that our existence is filled with passions and self-centeredness, and our eyes are blind to the truth. This realization will not limit us. By knowing that our eyes are blind to the truth, we can make our eyes open to the truth. By understanding that our everyday life is filled with worldly passions, we are able to know that there is Great Compassion which is embracing us always.



On this new year of 2022, let us live one day at a time with the feeling of appreciation and of being embraced. Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Shingo Furusawa

Happy New Year!

I am grateful for your help and support last year. Also, I would like to ask for your continued help and support in this year. We are still having the difficult situation due to the COVID-19. However, let us get through this situation through listening to the Buddha Dharma!

In Gassho.
Shingo Furusawa

Happy New Year from your Betsuin Staff and Ministers



Rev. Sol Kalu

As we embark on this new journey in life in 2022 and reflect on year 2021, let us learn from our mistakes, but at the same time express our gratitude to all and everything that enabled us to make it through a difficult year and to face a new one with renewed hope and encouragement. Like all things and events, good and bad, everything will come to an end someday, including this devastating COVID-19 pandemic. That is the Buddha's teaching on impermanence. There is neither a real yesterday nor a tomorrow, but the present moment, the here and now, is all that we really have to live life to its fullest measure. Let the Dharma continue to be our guiding light as we negotiate this new year 2022. A happy and prosperous New Year to everyone! Namo Amida Butsu!

BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF

YOU: Let us all hope that year 2022 will be a peaceful, clean, friendly year for all of us. Let us hope that the temple will open for services, and we can all meet there again, with a better attitude toward one another, with a beautiful smile and friendly greetings. After the disastrous 2020 and 2021 years, we learned to appreciate one another with better understanding and gratitude. Feelings of hate and animosity should all be cast away, for we are older and wiser today.

Every morning when you wake up, recite your Nembutsu and appreciate that you are alive and well. Each and every day is special for you, and we need to appreciate each moment, for we do not know what may happen any second. When our BWA president Cynthia Alm asked us, "1. What simple pleasure do you have today, that you didn't have a year ago? 2. What am I grateful for at this moment? 3. What is a small thing I am grateful for like a smile from someone?" These simple questions made me think. Why won't you?

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

The older I get, the more questions come to my mind, and that is probably because I never listened to the ministers' sermons well all these years. How about you? Do you have some questions?

I often wonder why in Jodo Shinshu we honor the deceased by remembering them through memorial services on the first year, third year, seventh year, 13th year, 17th year, 25th year, 33th year, 50th year and 100th year. It is interesting and nice to remember and attend these

memorial services; however, how many of us remember the dates and years of the deceased? Many of us remember birth dates rather than dates of death. What is the significance in having the services in odd years? There is not a single family that does not have a deceased member, so how do they remember?

HOW TO LIVE LONGER AND REDUCE THE RISK OF CANCER:

The American Institute for Cancer Research has come up with the following suggestions:

1. Be as lean as possible without becoming underweight.
2. Be physically active for 30 minutes a day. Limit sedentary habits like watching TV.
3. Sleep seven to nine hours a night. Sleeping less than six hours a night increases cancer risk by 43 %.
4. Avoid sugary drinks. Limit consumption of energy dense foods high in added sugar.
5. Drink your milk. High intake of calcium and vitamin D found primarily in dairy products resulted in lower risk of breast cancer.
6. Coffee: A cup a day resulted in an 8% reduction in endometrial cancer risk.
7. Green tea may slow the advancement of a variety of different cancer cells.



8. Eat more of a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and legumes such as beans.

9. Limit consumption of red meat such as beef, pork and lamb and avoid processed meats.

10. Limit alcoholic drinks to two for men and one for women a day.

11. Limit consumption of salty foods.

12. Do not smoke or chew tobacco.

If you exercise your mind and body, eat the right kinds of food and drink the right kinds of liquid, sleep well at night, and think right thoughts, you will live a long, healthy and good life. Let us all alter our egos and get going.

NOW, HOW ABOUT SOME HUMOR?

Can't eat pork....swine flu: Can't eat chicken...bird flu: Can't eat beef...mad cow disease: Can't eat eggs...salmonella: Can't eat fish...heavy metal poison in water: Can't eat fruits & vegetables...insecticide and herbicides:

You get STRESSED because you can't eat anything. That leaves CHOCOLATES and ICE CREAM, just desserts. STRESSED spelled backwards is DESSERTS.

Aloha Reverend and Mrs. Hagio: Rimban Toyokazu Hagio Retires



Reverend Toyokazu Hagio, who served six years as our chief minister, has retired effective December 31, 2021. His career as a Honpa Hongwanji minister in Hawaii spanned 40 years. Sangha members have been pleased to learn that Rev. Hagio and Mrs. Junko Hagio will remain in Honolulu, making it easier to hold an aloha event when conditions allow.

Reverend Hagio's first assignment as

a resident minister was at Waialua Hongwanji in 1981. He served there for 2-1/2 years while also responsible for Kahuku Hongwanji. From there, Hagio-sensei's career took him to Honouliuli Hongwanji (at 12 years his longest assignment), then to Wailuku Hongwanji and later to Waipahu Hongwanji. From 2007-2012, he served as the chief minister (Rimban) at Hilo Betsuin. In 2014, Hagio-sensei was assigned as the Fukurimban of Hawaii Betsuin, assuming the role of Rimban in 2015 upon the retirement of Rev. Tatsuo Muneto.

A more thorough review of Rev. and Mrs. Hagio's tenure with Honpa Hongwanji in Hawaii is for another issue of the Goji. But as we reflect on their time with us, laughter, dharma, and beauty are sure to be among the legacies we appreciate.

Rimban's gentle ways and sense of humor were vehicles for the dharma. Thanks to his commitment to Hawaii Betsuin's most religious spaces, two beautiful and symbolic paintings of birds grace the altar area in the hondo and more renovations are in the works. And we will long remember Mrs. Hagio's beautiful flower arrangements and her commitment and generosity in sharing this art form with others.

Recently, Rimban Hagio signed "Aloha!" at the Hawaii Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association year-end event on December 11. While appropriate for a farewell, aloha is also appropriate for "welcome back," a phrase we hope to use often when the Hagios come visit. Arigatou gozaimashita, Reverend and Mrs. Hagio!

- Submitted by David Atcheson

Hawaii Betsuin General Membership Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 30 at 1 p.m., online via Zoom - Registration Required!

Each year, Hawaii Betsuin holds a general membership meeting to share important information about the temple with the membership. The meeting is required by our bylaws, and the date is specified as the last Sunday in January. In years like this one where there is a new, incoming board of directors, we typically have the ceremonial installation of the officers and directors following the Sunday service and later the meeting and New Year's party.

In 2021, we held the general membership meeting via Zoom. With

case counts again on the rise, we have decided to once again hold the meeting over Zoom with the start time set for 1 p.m. (The Zoom "doors" will open a bit early for fellowship.)

REGISTRATION: Please visit the temple website at hawaii.betsuin.org/genmtg2022/ to register and to get more information as details are confirmed. If we do any special "party pack" food order & pick up, this information will also be available on the general meeting page.

Hope to see you at the meeting & party! We anticipate an informative, fun, and fast-moving event. Plus, we will have the opportunity to express our appreciation to Rev. Toyokazu Hagio and Mrs. Junko Hagio. In Gassho

- Submitted by David Atcheson



2021 BWA Year End Event -- Joy and Gratitude

BWA members enjoyed a heartwarming BWA Year End Event on Dec. 11, 2021 thanks to 1st V.P., Jo desMarets, who served as chair. To insure a "safe" event, Jo and her committee decided to hold two 45-minute sessions in the social hall with a limit of 25 participants per session. Excitement mounted the week before this event – some BWA members hadn't seen other members in person for well over a year and a half! On the morning of Dec. 11, BWA President Cindy Alm and Claire Groom began the registration process -- checking vaccination cards, temperatures, and requesting that folks sign COVID-19 waiver forms with contact information.

Inside the social hall, Jo's music playlist put everyone in the holiday spirit. Though everyone was masked, it was apparent that BWA folks were greeting each other with smiles of warm aloha. Many headed to the winter wonderland photo area, with its lovely backdrop and Jo's holiday inflatables, where Roy and Wendie Yumori were happy to take group pics.

The BWA Year End Event also provided an opportunity to express best wishes to Rimban Toyokazu Hagio on his retirement at the end of 2021. A special "Mahalo and Aloha" photo board, with pictures of Rimban T. Hagio during

his tenure at Hawaii Betsuin, was on display in the social hall. During the first session, Rimban T. Hagio, Rev. Sol Kalu, and Rev. Shingo Furusawa led participants in the Three Treasures using sign language. Responding to cries of "Hana hou!" the ministers obliged with a repeat performance. Then President Cindy Alm, on behalf of the BWA, delivered a message of appreciation to Rimban T. Hagio and presented him with a retirement gift.

Jo tapped into BWA resources for activities. Sharon Yokoyama, known for her cookie decorating skills, partnered with artistic Penny Atcheson to demonstrate how to pipe icing on gingerbread cookies to create a snowman, reindeer, wreath, and even a cute daruma; recipes were thoughtfully provided. Char Kihara, who has encouraged many a beginner to learn simple origami, demonstrated how to make origami lotus flowers. Jo offered her cane decorating expertise – at least four BWA members had their canes magically transformed into "candy" canes by Jo. Happi coats made by BWA members were marketed at the "Make Me Happi" table.

Wendie Yumori

Of course, a BWA Year End Event offers prizes! BWA members generously donated many gift cards and gift items for this event. By the end of the prize drawings, organized by Liane Wong, every BWA attendee had won a prize! Many items were also donated for the delightful take-home goodie bags, orange, in keeping with the Year of the Tiger theme. Included were crafts to make at home, a Year of the Tiger keychain, and sweet New Year's treats to savor.

Jo commented, "Seeing everyone come together with such joy and gratitude for the opportunity to be in each other's company was my favorite part of the morning! While our numbers were small compared to past Year End parties, the love and appreciation for friends was as great as ever!"





BWA Year End Event December 11, 2021

Collage by Ruth Tokumi



Warm welcome by Cindy and Claire. COVID-19 check.point.



Greeted by festive holiday inflatables for photo shoots. There were activity tables to decorate canes, to decorate gingerbread cookies, and to fold origami lotus flowers. "Make Me Happi" table sold Happi coats made by BWA members. 2022 Year of the Tiger goodie bags to take home.



Dharma School News

Dharma School services and activities continue to focus on the theme of "Our Pledge" by Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani.

We have had one stanza of "Our Pledge" as the theme for each Sunday service and activity, so that we can all get to know the words and messages conveyed in the pledge.

For our November 14 service, Kenji and Kainoa Brennan were our emcee and aspiration reader. Our theme for that service was the third stanza of "Our Pledge":

"Our Pledge" (3):

"Moving forward from self-centeredness, I will share a life of joy and sorrow with others. Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us."

Reverend Yuika Hasebe shared an original story about Mr. Self-Centeredness who changed his ways and eventually learned to appreciate everyone and everything. Our Dharma School activity was sharing the video of "I Am Love; A Book of Compassion," a read-aloud book by Susan Verde. Then we did a round robin storytelling activity in which a short story was told by three different

people, each contributing one line of the story which described a compassionate act or event. Everyone worked together to make up a short compassionate story and it was fun to hear what everyone came up with!

Naya and Keiden Furuyama were our emcee and aspiration reader for the November 21 service, which focused on the fourth stanza of "Our Pledge":

"Our Pledge" (4):

"Realizing that I live because of others, I will strive to live life to the fullest with an attitude of gratitude. Just like the Buddha, who promises to embrace us all."

Debbie Kubota

Reverend Sol Kalu shared a message about being grateful for so many things every single day. He encouraged us to be thankful every day, not just on Thanksgiving. Our Dharma School activity was led by Rachel Alm, Cindy's daughter, who was able to join us from her home in Bend, Oregon. She asked our students to show us their gratitude jars and to share the things they were grateful for. Some of the things they were grateful for were their family, school and delicious home cooked meals by their mother.

We encouraged our families to enjoy their Thanksgiving weekend on November 28 and did not have a



service on that day. There was no Dharma School service on December 5 either, because of the Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day service. On December 12, we had a combined service with the adult 10:00 AM service to commemorate Bodhi Day, and our Dharma School activity was learning about the Buddha's path to enlightenment with a Kahoot quiz to test everyone's knowledge of the Buddha's journey.

(continued on page 11)

Betsuin Ho'onko Service Scheduled for January 16, 2022 via Zoom



The Hawaii Betsuin will observe Ho'onko with services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on January 16, 2022 via Zoom. The speaker for both services will be former Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Bishop, Rev. Thomas Okano.

The Importance of Ho'onko

For Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, Ho'onko is one of the most important services.

Shinran Shonin was born on May 21, 1173 in Kyoto. His father, Arinori Hino, was from a branch of the Fujiwara clan and was a high court officer. His mother was Kikkonyo.

When he was nine years old, he chose to be ordained and became a monk. After more than 20 years of ascetic practices, Shinran Shonin realized that he still could not get rid of his passions. He then left the monastery and met Honen Shonin and his Nembutsu teaching.

The Nembutsu teaching spread into many towns and villages in Kyoto. Though fortunate to be guided by this esteemed teacher, Shinran Shonin was unable to remain with Honen Shonin for long because the discord and turmoil in the world gradually encroached upon this circle.

The monks from other schools were offended at the growing popularity of the Nembutsu teaching. They submitted a nine-article resolution to the Emperor, petitioning that the Nembutsu teaching be prohibited.

As a result, Honen Shonin was exiled to Tosa Province and Shinran Shonin was exiled to Echigo Province. After years of hard living in Echigo, Shinran Shonin was pardoned. Instead of returning to his home, Shinran Shonin headed to the Kanto area to spread the Teachings.

When Shinran Shonin was about 63 years old, after 20 years of spreading the teaching in the Kanto area, he returned to his family in Kyoto. He revised and finished his writing of Kyogyoshinsho, wasans, and other pieces. Shinran Shonin passed away on January 16, 1263 at the age of 90.

After so many years of hardship, Shinran Shonin found the way to encounter Amida Buddha's compassion and Wisdom and spread the teaching to all of us. With sincere gratitude and appreciation, let us observe the Ho'onko service together.



Dharma School continued from page 10



On December 19, Ellen Ruckmann-Bruch was our emcee and Talin Giang was our aspiration reader. Reverend Shingo Furusawa gave the Dharma message related to the holidays and our Dharma School activity was creating whiteboard thank you messages as a gift to our Betsuin ministers.

We look forward to a fun and exciting 2022. Our services and activities are open to all generations across Hawaii and on the Mainland. Feel free to join us, anytime! If interested, please contact our Betsuin office. Hope to see you in person or online with us very soon!

Breaking News from the Hawaii Betsuin Personnel Changes:

Effective January 1, 2022, Rev. Tatsuo Muneto is assigned as the Hawaii Betsuin Rimban until June 30, 2022.

Effective immediately, Rev. Yuika Hasebe is promoted to the position of Hawaii Betsuin Fuku-Rimban.

COVID Update from Interim Executive Director, David Atcheson

Hawaii Betsuin COVID-19 / Reopening Update (revised 12/22/21, subject to change)

The Wednesday Gang has removed the plywood from the outside stairs to the Social Hall. The BWA held a modified year-end party in the Social Hall in shifts. Signs of reopening? Yes. But omicron and rising case counts are cause for concern. Here is the latest information on reopening at Hawaii Betsuin.

County Restrictions Loosen

The governor is giving counties more latitude to set and relax COVID restrictions. Guidance from Hongwanji Hawaii Headquarters also points to county regulations. How have City and County of Honolulu rules changed as of December 1, 2021?

- While the county now allows full capacity, Betsuin may implement its own capacity limits.
- Serving food triggers Safe Access requirements (confirmation of vaccination or proof of a negative test result from an FDA approved molecular or antigen test within 7 days).

Note that face coverings are still required indoors, and also outdoors at events (some exceptions).

Other Considerations

Some circumstances at Betsuin may mean that the temple implements restrictions beyond those provided for by the City & County. These include:

- The vulnerability of senior sangha members.
- Any emergent cases of COVID on the temple campus and general case counts in Honolulu.
- Our staffing capacity for memorial services and funerals (including ensuring any ongoing safety protocols), and for supporting affiliated group events (including securing the building after hours). We are exploring ways to address this limitation.
- Availability of space due to planned renovations and other facilities projects.

General Outlook and Plan for Reopening

- We are prioritizing religious services and affiliated group usage of available spaces.
- We anticipate raising the limit on attendees for memorial services and funerals in January 2022, stepping up first to 15 attendees (we are maintaining flexibility to respond to circumstances).
- We foresee accepting in-person attendees at Sunday services in January (also limiting to 15 at first) while maintaining an online option. Providing for both in-person and online audiences at the same time is not trivial, particularly for audio. Thank you for your patience.
- A vaccination or approved test requirement for all religious services is envisioned.
- We plan to accommodate higher numbers at affiliated group events. Limits will vary based on room size and affiliated group protocols.
- As case counts grow or remain high, we may limit food to prepackaged take-away. Some exceptions may be negotiated in cases where all attendees are fully vaccinated.

Important Note

The COVID situation is dynamic and the virus is adaptive. So must Betsuin be adaptive as circumstances change. While we hope for conditions that continuously improve until we may gather again as we did before, we must try not to become attached to that scenario. Our reopening path may need to zig, zag, and even temporarily retreat depending on conditions. What is allowed by the county or the temple may or may not be appropriate for your group or you as an individual. Risk assessment is needed at every level.

Your perspectives are important to hear as we find a reopening pace that fits our temple. Feel free to contact Interim Executive Director David Atcheson at datcheson@hawaiibetsuin.org or (808) 536-7044.

Hawaii Betsuin Election of Officers for 2022 - 2023 Report

Election Report: Hawaii Betsuin Board 2022-2023

246 qualifying ballots were cast in the November election for the 2022-2023 Hawaii Betsuin board of directors, conducted as a mail-in vote. Here are the results.

Officer Candidates

President: Alan Tomita (205)
President-elect: Cindy Alm (206)
1st VP (Education): Wayne Yoshioka (212)
2nd VP (Facilities): John Toguchi (209)
3rd VP (Relig. Matters): Dexter Mar (211)
4th VP (Finance): Wendy Harman (209)
5th VP (Operations): Alan Kubota (215)
Treasurer: Reid Yamamoto (219)
Secretary: Steve Lohse (207)
Auditor: Joel Determan (200)
Auditor: Craig Wagnild (201)

Other Director Candidates

Alan Goto (199)	Joel Ganotisi* (173)
Alexandrianna Harman* (161)	Keith Lee* (159)
Ben Bruch (182)	Kimberly Harsanyi (154)
Charlyne Tom* (194)	(Kim will serve as an advisor)
David Atcheson (209)	Mel Kawahara* (164)
David Miyamoto* (195)	Mike Inouye* (181)
Debbie Kubota (196)	Ralston Nagata* (210)
Dennis Sekine (182)	Randy Kawamoto* (176)
Dianne Ida (213)	Ranelle Omura* (182)
Florence Wasai (192)	Roy Miyamoto (190)
Irene Nohara (180)	Sharyn Sekine (193)
Jacqueline Furuta (204)	Thanh Giang* (181)
Jo desMarets (193)	Wendie Yumori (204)

* An asterisk next to a name above indicates a newly elected director who is not serving on the 2020-2021 board. That makes 11 of the 24 as "new" directors!

In addition to the elected directors, the board has one appointed lay non-member director, Glenn Yokoyama (bylaws allow for up to 5). Each of the Betsuin ministers is also a voting board member. The temple Executive Director and Hongwanji Mission School (HMS) Head of School are non-voting members. Finally, several temple groups have board representation, currently the HMS Parent Teacher Organization, Boy Scouts, Buddhist Women's Association, Dharma School, Girl Scouts, and Sudhana Fellowship. The board also has several advisors.

We have placed the **full election results** (including vote counts and write-ins), as well as a candidate profiles document sent out with the ballot, in a Google Drive folder. You may access it via a shortcut web address: bit.ly/hb-elect21

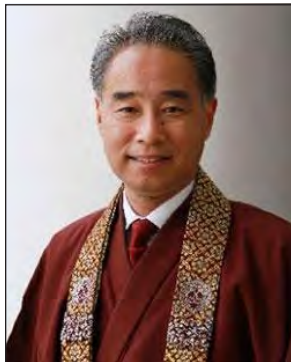
Many mahalos to all the returning and new board member candidates who stepped up to invest time and energy in this way to help Betsuin thrive. Thanks too to all who cast ballots ☺ the flow of ballots into the office was a tangible sign of engagement during challenging times.

- David Atcheson, Interim Executive Director

Headquarters Connections

News from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

(see <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/news/>)



"Thank you, thank you and thank you!"

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

May I take this moment through this message to express my gratitude to the Buddha, the Dharma and you, the Sangha. Truly it is thanks to all Three Treasures that we are continuing as an organization to carry out our Mission Statement of "To share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude."

I would like to thank you, Members and Friends of Hawaii Kyodan both ministers and lay, for your support, dedication and understanding which enables us to continue especially during this challenging time. From the bottom of my heart-and-mind, thank you very much! You, the Sangha of Hawaii Kyodan are truly precious and vital, an essential part of the Three

Treasures.

Finally, we, I, must be grateful to the Buddhas like Shakyamuni for sharing the Dharma with us and especially Amida Buddha for Unconditional Compassion which accepts and embraces promising birth in the wondrous Pure Land of Enlightenment. Once again, to the Three Treasures, "Thank you, thank you, thank you" and Namo Amida Butsu! (Excerpt from Bishop's Corner, [Headquarters Update Newsletter](#), November 2021.)

HHMH Committee on Social Concerns

The Buddhist Churches of America Social Welfare Committee and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Committee on Social Concerns are planning a fun Zoom sharing session about food waste -- both the issue and how we can address it. The selected date of Saturday, April 16, 2022, helps tie the event to Earth Day (April 22). Let's work together to learn and share ideas for controlling our own food waste as well as how we can help those who are less fortunate. A survey form to share your experiences and ideas is available using the following link: <https://forms.gle/9FSjHnuGLm3ZUSyMA>.

HHMH Propagation Program Grant

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's "Propagation Program Grant Committee" would like to announce that the "Propagation Program Grant" is available to all of you for "New and wonderful ideas for propagating Nembutsu teachings into our community." The maximum amount of the grant must not exceed \$10,000 for a project with statewide implications/potential. For more information regarding this program or how to apply, please check with Honpa Hongwanji HQ hqs@honpahi.org or with your resident minister.

Online Course on Shin Buddhism Starts February 2022

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka will present a monthly ten-part course titled "Ocean 2: Further Introduction to Shin Buddhism in the West and Beyond." This course is for those who want to learn more about Shinran, the deeper meanings of Shin Buddhism, and tips to deal more effectively with the ups and downs of ordinary lives. Please register here: <https://forms.gle/viWyn4fPAFrWBUA27>, and please contact Rev. Tanaka directly at chacotanaka@gmail.com with inquiries.

Hawaii Kyodan Calendar - January 2022

January 1 (Sat) New Year's Day
 January 3 (Mon) New Year's Day Observed (HQ closed for holiday)
 January 16 (Sun) Shinran Shonin's Memorial Day (Hoonko)
 January 17 (Mon) M. L. King Jr. Day (HQ closed for holiday)



Dial-A-Dharma Message

(Recorded message)

English
(808) 536-2456
Japanese
(808) 354-0261

24 Hours a Day / 7 Days a Week!

We're Collecting Aloha Shirts

The Betsuin
BWA continues
to collect
aloah shirts for
distribution to our
military serving overseas.



Please contact Jo desMarets
(purpleldy2@aol.com) to donate
aloah shirts or for more information!

BETSUIN FRIENDSHIP TELEPHONE TIME

If you would like to talk story,
please call the Hawaii Betsuin at
(808) 536-7044.

A minister is available
12:30 PM-1:30 PM
Monday to Friday
to receive your phone calls
and talk story with you.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2022

Food and Feminine Hygiene Products Drive
Monday, January 17, 2022; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Hawaii Betsuin back parking lot



In lieu of the canceled MLK Jr. Parade in Waikiki, Honpa Hongwanji is teaming up with the Hawaii NAACP on a food and hygiene products drive. Hawaii Betsuin will be one of the drop-off sites. Please bring non-perishable food items for Hawaii Foodbank and feminine hygiene products for Ma'i Movement Hawai'i to Hawaii Betsuin's back parking lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the MLK Jr. Day holiday. Volunteers will be on-hand to accept your drive-thru donations. Thank you for your kokua!

"Life's most persistent and urgent question
is: 'What are you doing for others?'"



**MLK Image: OTFW , editor Eugenio Hansen, OFS,
CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons**

Betsuin DIALOGUE Project Meeting January 13, 2022

All Welcomed!



If you are interested in exploring social concerns with others through a Buddhist lens, then the Hawaii Betsuin DIALOGUE Project is for you! The next DIALOGUE is Thursday, January 13, 2022. To honor MLK Day, the topic is "No Justice, No Peace?" Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." Buddha said, "Hatred does not cease through hatred at any time. Hatred ceases through love. This is an unalterable law." Others, from Jane Addams to Einstein to Eisenhower, have expressed similar thoughts. Please see hawaiibetsuin.org/dialogue to register to receive participation info and brief readings, to suggest future DIALOGUE topics, or to ask questions. DIALOGUE is a project of Hawaii Betsuin's Social Concerns Committee.



In Memoriam



Radio Programs JANUARY 2022 KZOO 1210 AM Japanese Language Saturday at 7:30 AM

- 01 Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani
& Bishop Eric Matsumoto
- 08 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 05 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 20 Rev. Ryoso Toshima
- 29 Rev. Daido Baba

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 family's needs.

Information Regarding Sunday Services

The 9 a.m. Dharma School service and the 10 a.m. English service continue for now on Zoom. For speakers of Japanese, emailed messages are available -- please contact the office.

For current information on Betsuin services, including Zoom connection details, see the online calendar at hawaiiibetsuin.org. You may also check the Betsuin Bulletin sent by email on Fridays (subscribe at hawaiiibetsuin.org/email-signup/). Or, call the office. Recorded services are available on the Hawaii Betsuin YouTube channel, with "premieres" on Sundays at 11 a.m. (some exceptions).

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

2020

- May 04 AJIFU, Kyle Rikio (63)
- August 18 IGE, Philip Keimin (95)
- December 03 KOKUBUN, Earl Teruo (76)

2021

- January 23 TANAKA, Doris Ayako (92)
- July 22 CHING, Wilfred "Woody" Q.S. (84)
- August 18 WATAOKA, Alvin Takao (68)
- September 13 URADA, Walter Tadao (90)
- September 19 IMUS, Miwako (87)
- September 20 HAMASU, Tsuruye (97)
- October 12 NAKASONE, Karen Matsue (94)
- October 15 HIRAKI, Richard Yoshio (89)
- October 19 KUBO, Dennis Tadashi (72)
- October 27 HIRANO, May Emiko (90)

NOVEMBER 2021

- 01 MURANAKA, Melvin Kazuo (81)
- 06 TANAKA, Jean Yoshiko (85)
- 09 YONESHIGE, Hisayo (96)
- 19 AKAMINE, Takemitsu (92)
- 19 YANAGI, Grace Hisako (83)
- 20 CHANG, Amy Shinozuka (92)
- 20 SAKUMA, Leslie Itsuo (72)
- 25 NISHIOKA, Yoshito (92)
- 29 TASHIRO, Clinton Kazuyuki (88)

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

2022 Memorial Service Schedule

2022 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2021: 1st year	2010: 13th year	1990: 33th year
2020: 3rd year	2016: 17th year	1973: 50th year
2016: 7th year	1998: 25th year	1923: 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