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GOJI

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AUGUST 2022
NEWSLETTER

of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
hawaiihetsuin.org

2022 Slogan:

“Building Healthy
Sanghas: Connecting
with Others”

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Acting Chief Minister
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Sol Kalu
Rev. Shingo Furusawa

Temple Sangha Embraces Obon Memorial Lantern Program

In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, names have great significance. In saying the name, Namo Amida Butsu, we express our gratitude for being embraced by the boundless wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha. And when we say our departed loved ones' names at services or encounter their names on niches and photos, we experience moments of deep gratitude for their lives and legacy.

It's the same with Obon Memorial Lanterns and ribbons. Over two hundred lantern dedications have come in, some of which were for multiple lanterns. Each ribbon lists up to five names. Typing, printing, and displaying the names has been a moving experience, and the result in the hondo has been a palpable feeling of remembrance and appreciation.

Thank you for your embrace of the Obon Memorial Lanterns program and the financial support it has provided, especially important given the cancellation of our Bon Dance. A special thanks to board member Irene Nohara and office coordinator Colleen Kunishige for their teamwork in displaying the lanterns, as well as to Mikey Bradshaw for some of the display materials.

With the exception of a brief period around Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani's funeral (August 13), lanterns will be displayed in the hondo at least through the end of August, after which the ribbons will be mailed to those who made the dedications. Submitted by David Atcheson



Kyodan Funeral Service for Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani to be Held August 13 at the Hawaii Betsuin

Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani, the 11th Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on May 17, 2021, at the age of 97. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii sponsored funeral service has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 13, 2022 at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. The visitation will be held from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm which is open to the public to be followed by the Funeral Service at 3:00 pm. Due to limited parking space, carpooling is recommended. Livestreaming of the service will also be available. The streaming link will be shared at a later date.



Dharma Message: "What is a Columbarium (Nokotsudo) and Its Relationship to the Nembutsu Life"

Former Acting Rimban, Tatsuo Muneto

The columbarium is one of the most sacred places in the Hawaii Betsuin. This space is to keep the urns of the deceased members of the temple. It is a place for the families to visit the niches to reflect on their relationships with the deceased. The Columbarium is a place of serenity for peaceful reflection; it is not just storage to keep the urns.

Urn have special significance in Buddhist tradition. After Sakyamuni Buddha passed on and entered the bliss of Nirvana at the age of eighty in 383 B.C., his body was cremated and the ashes were buried in Kusinagara, and a big mound was made. That was

the beginning of columbaria. Today numerous Buddhists throughout the world go there to pay their respects to the Buddha.

Ever since that time, ashes signified one's life entering into the bliss of nirvana. When Shinran Shonin (1173-1263 AD) passed away, his ashes were buried. This site was moved to Higashiyama in Kyoto, and it became the Ohtani Mausoleum. At most of the local temples of Jodo Shinshu, columbaria have been built where the members ashes have been kept. Mausoleums and columbaria became sacred places of worship for Buddhists.

For many years, the Hawaii Betsuin's columbarium was located in the space where the lounge is today. Because that location was cramped and dark, it was moved to the present site in the mid 1980s. The new columbarium became an authentic place of worship when the new altar was donated by a temple member.

Today more than 2,700 niches are filled with the urns in the columbarium, and many families visit the family niches on Mother's Day and Father's Day, as well as other special occasions, such as Obon. Before the pandemic, a minister chanted a sutra at the altar in memory of the departed members every day.

The next time you come to the Betsuin columbarium, please pay your respects to the departed families in the following order:

1. Place the flowers in the vases on the tiered shelf. Standing in front of Amida's statue, burn and lay stick incense in the incense burner.
2. Bow first and take a pinch of ground incense and drop them on the embers, and say Nembutsu in Gassho and bow.

3. Then, go to the family niches and have a moment of meditation and reflection. It is meaningful to go to the niches even at one's difficult time. The sorrow will be resolved in the moment of meditation.
4. Remember that the departed families are in the Buddha land of peace (Pure Land).
5. In deep gratitude for the guidance of the departed families, take time in front of the niche in reflection of their lives. And enjoy your togetherness with them under the guidance of the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha.



Let us keep the Betsuin Columbarium as a sacred space for the members to meditate on the power of compassion of Amida Buddha in happiness or unhappiness. Namo Amida Butsu.

The Hawaii Betsuin Board of Directors is working on updating the Columbarium policies and procedures. In order to complete this task, the Board requests feedback on your experiences visiting the Columbarium or any ideas you may have to improve the Columbarium.

The HBBOD is conducting a survey to better assess the needs of the Columbarium and its visitors. A survey is available via the following link:

<http://hhhb.link/columbariumsuey>

You may also request that a copy be sent to you by calling the temple office or pick up a survey at the office when you visit the Betsuin.



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 (goji@hawaiibetsuin.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. Shingo Furusawa, Japanese section editor* Production: *Colleen Kunishige, David Atcheson;* Circulation: *Colleen Kunishige, Elmer Cagoan;* 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.

Message from Jon Matsuoka, Executive Director

The Hawai'i Betsuin continues to explore ways to enhance its operational efficiency through new models and processes, diversifying revenue streams while adjusting existing means, and modifying our messaging and service delivery to attract a broader audience. We are also focused on developing greater cohesion and consensus between the primary temple elements: members, ministers, board, and staff. Strategic Planning begins in August with a pre-planning event that involves non-board and younger stakeholders. They are the future of the temple and their voices must be incorporated into a vision of viability and sustainability.

We are very pleased to introduce our new Business Manager, Ashleigh Ito. Ashleigh grew up in Palolo Valley, attended Mid-Pacific Institute and Chaminade University, and has family ties to Hawai'i Betsuin going back over 100 years. She has extensive experience in business operations including accounting, human resources and personnel management, information technology, and construction management. Beyond her extensive skill set and long family ties we were also impressed by her flexible and open-style and innovative approach to problem-solving.

I want to also take this time to express a deep mahalo to Dave Atcheson who has gone beyond the call in filling in as Operations Manager. He has helped keep the ship afloat during arduous times while contributing to a very positive work environment. On top of a stacked workload, he has taken time to orient both Ashleigh and myself to-

office operations and Betsuin culture. His experience as a board member and office staff has provided him with a full and unique perspective on how the temple works, and we look forward to his continuing contributions as a board member.

Reverend Muneto is also retiring at the end of July for a second time. In January of this year, he dutifully accepted a call to become the Acting Rimban at Betsuin. Muneto-sensei and I go back a long way, since he was the minister at Moiliili Hongwanji and we were a young family deciding whether to raise our sons as Hawaiian Christian or Buddhist. His gracious and welcoming manner persuaded us to choose the latter. Since arriving at Betsuin I have occupied the office next to his and given the chance to reconnect and learn Buddhism in a deeper sense. I am deeply grateful to him for his unceasing support over the last three decades.

While we are sad he is leaving us, we are thrilled to have Reverend Hasebe step in as the new Acting Rimban. As the first woman Rimban in Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i's history, it is a significant step that opens the way for greater diversity in leadership. Beyond gender, Reverend Hasebe brings a joyous demeanor and excellent people skills, a deep commitment to the longevity of Betsuin, and a highly progressive understanding of Sangha.



Ashleigh Ito

**STARTING
SEPTEMBER 1ST**
(and ending September 30th)

Foodland's annual "Give Aloha" Community Matching Gifts program will be happening at all Foodland stores. Customers may make charitable gifts to participating nonprofits when checking out using their Maika'i Cards. Foodland will match a portion of your donation.

Hawaii Betsuin will once again be participating!

Our code will be # 78500

More information will be available in the September Goji. Thank you in advance for supporting the Betsuin through the "Give Aloha" program and our upcoming End of Year Fund Drive!



BWA News and Events

HEALTH NEWS: This article comes from Dr. Patrick Teefy, Cardiology Head of the Nuclear Medicine Institute University Hospital, London, Ontario. This is really important for everyone to know. *NOTE: The American Heart Association notes that coughing forcefully may have some utility when it comes to arrhythmia but does not endorse "cough CPR." Consult your doctor for medical advice.*

1. Let's say it's 7:25 pm and you're going home alone after a hard day on the job.
2. You're tired, upset, and frustrated.
3. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to drag out into your arm and up to your jaw. You are only about 5 km from the hospital nearest your home.
4. Unfortunately, you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.
5. You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.
6. **HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE.** Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack without help; the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about ten seconds left before losing consciousness.
7. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly, and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when trying to produce sputum from deep inside the chest.
8. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds, without let-up, until help arrives or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.
9. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it to regain a normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can then get help or go to the hospital.
10. Tell as many people as possible about this. It could save their lives.
11. A cardiologist says, "If everyone who gets this message and kindly passes it on

or sends it via email to ten people, you can bet that we'll save at least one life."

12. This message came to me from Rodney Yoshizawa. Thank you. Now, please pass it on and remember what you must do.

AUGUST IS STILL SUMMER:

The Coronavirus epidemic has been with us for over two and a half years already. We have been isolated from temple services and other temple activities for

nearly three years. Sadly, many of our friends have passed away. We all hope that you will keep yourselves healthy so that we can all meet again soon. At this time we can only rely on our recitation of the Nembutsu to keep our spirits high, so let us recite "Namo Amida Butsu" as often as we can.

EXERCISE YOUR BODY AND

MIND: Let's begin with one story. One Sunday morning a minister

Fujiko Motobu



noticed Bobby, a little boy standing in front of the plaque by the foyer. Bobby kept looking at the plaque, so the minister asked Bobby, "What are you looking for?" Bobby answered, "What is it anyway?" So the minister explained, "Those are the names of all the men and women who were in service and died, so their names are printed and a little American flag is placed next to their names." After a few moments of silence, Bobby asked, "What service was it, the 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock service?"

Here is the next story. A minister was searching in his closet for a tie before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet he found a small box containing three eggs and 100 one-dollar bills.

He called his wife and asked her about the box and the contents. Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box for their entire 30 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt he asked her, "Why?" The wife said she did not want to hurt his feelings. He asked her how a box could hurt his feelings. She said, every time during their marriage that he delivered a poor sermon she placed an egg into the box.

He felt that three poor sermons in 30 years was nothing to feel bad about so he asked her about the \$100 dollars. She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs I sold them to the neighbor for \$1.00 and accumulated the hundred dollars." Now, you can figure out how many poor sermons he delivered in 30 years.

More News from the BWA

Cindy Alm, President

Upcoming Activities:

- Aug 27, "The Oceans Connect Us" -- Honolulu United BWA, Joint Education and Membership Conference. Register by Aug 6.
- Oct 30, BWA 4th General Membership Meeting and Elections

Gratitude:

Fabric Clearance Sale. Our sincere gratitude to everyone who stopped by to visit, have fun, and purchase some fabric. Special mahalo to Penny Atcheson and Sharon Yokoyama for organizing the sale featuring a display of sample project ideas, and to our volunteers. Thank you to the temple and office staff, Temari, and retired attorney and textile artist Ellen Carson, for publicizing the sale.

Field Trip to Waikiki Aquarium. On July 18, BWA and 'ohana joyously rode a large school bus for a field trip to the Waikiki Aquarium. We toured the colorful and educational exhibits at our own pace. Mahalo to Jo desMarets for organizing the excursion, Liane and Albert Wong for serving as field trip leaders, and Dianne Ida for a short walking tour to Kaimana Beach where "Rocky," a Hawaiian monk seal, and her pup have been in residence since the pup's birth.

Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers. Thank you for your generous donations of new and gently used aloha shirts. More than 100 aloha shirts were mailed to the nonprofit Hawaiian Shirts for Deployed Soldiers. Thank you to Jo desMarets for leading this project.

Betsuin Bon Dancercise Wednesday Nights

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

in the Main Social Hall

Classes will be led by
Derrick Iwata and Elliot Peters

along with associate dancers

All levels of dancers,
young and old,
are all welcome!

Masks are required!

Due to COVID concerns,
refreshments will

NOT be served!

Bring your own water!



Scouting News:



Boy Scout Troop 49

This month's theme was "Go-Karts and Cooking" led by the Cobra and Shark patrols. This month scouts had a few more meetings to work and race their Go-Karts then shifted into our Iron Chef cooking competition activity.

Scouts were given an additional meeting to improve and fix their Go-Karts because during our previous race many of the carts broke or had major flaws. Patrol Leaders planned and created steps to improve different aspects of their patrols' cart. After the scouts improved and fixed their carts they had a second race day where all 4 groups raced again. There were two events: a speed race and a distance race. During the speed race scouts raced their carts in a straight line to see which cart would pass the finish line the fastest. For the distance race, scouts raced their carts and navigated a turn, to see which cart could go the furthest before they came to a complete stop. The patrol that came in first place in both categories were the Scorpion Patrol. This definitely was a fun and great learning experience for everyone.

This event was followed by an Iron Chef cooking competition.

The Iron Chef cooking competition event is an activity where patrols cook head to head to see which patrol can cook the best meal. Scouts were tasked with cooking a meal that incorporated a "secret ingredient." The secret ingredient for this competition was mushrooms. Each dish had to include mushrooms in some sort of way. The competition was held on July 1st and the winning patrol will be announced in the following article.

Looking forward to July, the troop

Dillon Pang, Troop 49

will start to plan and prepare for our summer camp that is scheduled for July 25 thru 29. It will be held at Camp Palehua where scouts can earn more rank advancements, practice their skills, and learn new ones as well as earn merit badges. Keep an eye out for our next exciting article to see who won the Iron Chef competition and how our camp went.



Headquarters Connections

Headquarters Updates and *Ka Leo Kāhea* (The Calling Voice) newsletters are available at [News & Announcements](#) ☞ [Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii](#)

**Joint Statement by Bishop Eric Matsumoto and
Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair of the Committee on Social Concerns,
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**
July 23, 2022

Statement on the Right to Reproductive Freedom

We deeply lament the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, curtailing the ability of individuals especially women to make reproductive healthcare decisions for themselves.

The issue of abortion should not be seen in dualistic absolutes. The Dharma teaches us to value the preciousness of all life or existence regardless of the form. However, we also know there are various causes and conditions, some beyond the immediate control of any one individual, which factor into the personal and private decision to end a pregnancy. Thus, we should refrain from unfairly judging the decisions made by another. As such, we believe the agency of an individual should be respected and honored, as we each have the capacity to make informed and responsible decisions for ourselves based on circumstances.

Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Shin Buddhism affirmed the complexities of life and how difficult it is for us to discern the wholesome from the unwholesome. This is why we go to the Dharma (Teachings) for guidance and are unconditionally embraced by the non-discriminative Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha which surrounds one and all beyond the distinctions that our human minds may make.

The Court's decision to eliminate federal protections for abortion will deepen inequality in our country, as many individuals and communities already face inconsistent access to quality health care services. Especially at risk are Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other communities of color who will encounter worsening health and economic disparities. Women's reproductive health services should be considered basic health care.

We acknowledge the pain, fear, and hurt that so many in our country are experiencing. We will continue to support the spiritual and bodily autonomy of women and others to make informed decisions about their own reproductive health.

Guided by the Buddha's Teachings, we believe complex and difficult decisions should be made with compassion, empathy, responsibility, humility, and an understanding of an individual's sometimes extraordinary circumstances.

May we live with a vision of mutuality and act from an understanding of our profound interconnectedness with kindness and respect for all.

In Gassho,
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, a Shin Buddhist Denomination of Pure Land Buddhism

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
HHMH Committee on Social Concerns

Headquarters Connections is curated by Steve Lohse and Cindy Alm.
For a PDF version of "Statement on the Right to Reproductive Freedom" see
<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2022/07/23/statement-on-reproductive-freedom/>

Radio Programs AUGUST 2022

Japanese Language, SAT. ,7:30 AM

06....Rev. Yuika Hasebe
 13....Rev. Ryoso Toshima
 20....Rev. Daido Baba
 27....Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani

AUGUST SPEAKERS

07 8AM Rev. Hasebe
 10AM Rev. Furusawa

14 8AM Rev. Hagio
 10AM Rev. Kalu

21 8AM Rev. Furusawa
 10AM Rev. Hasebe

28 8AM Rev. Hasebe
 10AM Rev. Muneto

**Information Regarding
Sunday Services**

Attendee limits for in-person funerals and memorial services are now based on room capacity and families' comfort levels. 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.

The 10 a.m. English-language services (as well as the occasional 9:30 a.m. combined services) are now open to in-person attendees. A Zoom option continues to be available. Also, the 8 a.m. in-person Japanese language services have resumed. The Betsuin Dharma School is on summer break.

Many past services are available for replay on the Hawaii Betsuin YouTube channel. For current information on Betsuin services, including Zoom connection details, see the online calendar at hawaii.betsuin.org. You may also check the Betsuin Bulletin sent by email on Fridays (subscribe at hawaii.betsuin.org/email-signup/). Or, call the office at (808) 536-7044.

**In Memoriam**

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

AUGUST 23, 2021

SHIMABUKURO, Ellen Yaeko (73)

JANUARY 24, 2022

ONO, James Kiyoshi (92)

MARCH 17, 2022

TOGUCHI, Kenneth Hiroshi (73)

MARCH 18, 2022

YOSHINO, Amy Emiko (94)

MARCH 27, 2022

MINAMISHIN, Kazuko (87)

APRIL 21, 2022

SEKI, Melvin Isao (84)

MAY 02, 2022

SUGITA, Mildred Tatsuko (82)

MAY 04, 2022

KAWANO, Janet Hatsumi (89)

MAY 28, 2022

IDEGUCHI, Kunio (97)

MAY 29, 2022

YAMAOKA, Hisako (93)

JUNE 2022

03 YAMASAKI, Marjory Makiko (83)
 04 NIIMOTO, Dorothy Hisako (93)
 05 TOMOSAWA, Emiko (88)
 17 TOKUSHIMA, Violet Wakako (94)
 17 USHIJIMA, Alice Noriye (76)
 20 SCHNEIDER, Sharon Tomoe (71)
 21 SATO, Katsuhide (74)

**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	2006: 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