



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

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SEPTEMBER 2022
NEWSLETTER

of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
hawaiibetsuin.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

Betsuin to Observe Autumn Ohigan

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will observe Ohigan, a major service that occurs twice a year, during the spring and autumn season. Ohigan is a time for self reflection and honoring of one's ancestors. Observed at a time of the equinoxes, when both night and day are of equal length, it is thought that the distance between the world of the living and the world of the dead is shortest. It translates in Buddhism to mean “crossing to the other shore,” the other shore being Nirvana, or the Pure Land, the realm of Amida Buddha.

The Autumn Ohigan service will be an online family service starting at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 18, 2022. The speaker for this service will be Rev. LaVerne Sasaki who will deliver Dharma messages for both children and adults. The title of his Dharma message is: “Is the Other Shore Here?” Following the service and Dharma talk will be a 30-minute informal Dharma Dialogue discussion.



Rev. LaVerne Sasaki was born in Stockton, California, the eldest son of Rev. and Mrs. Sensho Sasaki. He graduated from Sacramento State University in 1952, Tokyo University in 1958 with an M.A. degree in Japanese Buddhism and University of the Pacific in 1965 with a degree in Religious Education. Rev. Sasaki served as a BCA minister, from 1953-2000, at the Stockton Buddhist Temple, Mountain View Buddhist Temple, and Buddhist Churches of San Francisco. He was the former Chair of the BCA Ministerial Association and Trustee of the Institute of Buddhist Studies. He and his wife, Helen, have five children, all grown, and 13 grandchildren. He enjoys reading, sports, and afternoon naps.

Annual Golf Tournament: Mahalo for 25 Years!

25 years of Hawaii Betsuin Golf Tournaments! Congratulations on this milestone - Melvyn Kawahara and your many helpers and loyal golfers.

On August 11, 2022, 174 golfers and 30+ volunteers, including 12 from BWA gathered at Ala Wai Golf Course. Beautiful blue skies, a brisk wind, and some par 3 challenges encouraged everyone to bring their A game.

L&L at Ala Wai provided croissant sandwiches for lunch and a delicious buffet for

dinner, which included meat, fish, chicken, noodles, salad, and fruits. This year, golfers could even choose their dinner to be a bento-to-go.

What is a golf tournament without competition and prizes? The Honpa Hongwanji Mission School team of



Golf Tournament volunteers are briefed and given their assignments for the day.

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Dharma Message: "The Other Shore of Enlightenment"

Ohigan, a major religious service in the Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Buddhism is observed during both spring and autumn equinoxes. Ohigan means "the Other Shore" and is a metaphor for transcending the world of ignorance and suffering of samsaric existence to the world of nirvana, of peace and tranquility. The Other Shore is the Pure Land, described by Shakyamuni Buddha in the Amitabha Sutra.

In Pure Land Buddhism, the direction where the sun sets is associated with the direction of where the Pure Land of Amida Buddha is - the West. Indeed, in the Meditation Sutra, visualization of the setting sun is the first of the meditative

techniques that Shakyamuni Buddha taught to Queen Vaidehi as a means of visualizing the Pure Land. The story of Queen Vaidehi and King Bimbashara and Prince Ajatasatru is from the Contemplation or Meditation Sutra and is an important part of the Pure Land tradition of Buddhism. The Pure Land has been called by many names, like the Western Paradise, Western Land of Bliss and Peace and so on. But why in the west? The rising and setting of the sun has always been used as a metaphor for the beginning and end of human life. The rising of the sun is compared to our being born in the world, with the sunlight coming, everything that has been covered in the darkness of the night is revealed, much like our being born reveals to us this world, this human realm. We gradually gain wisdom as the day of our life moves on, hitting the peak at noon, when we are most productive and active, physically and mentally, then as age comes, gradual slowing down, lessening light and finally the sunset, the time we disappear or die. But death in Buddhism is only a transition, it is not the end of it all. Amida Buddha's Pure Land is aptly located to the West because according to the teaching, the West is the site of our setting, we finally go home at the sunset of our life. The Pure Land is our ultimate home when we leave this human existence. It's in the western direction but we have to understand that direction is a man made idea - west, east, north, south, do not exist in reality but conveniently invented by man to establish a reference point for location. What is west to some will not be west to others. Hawaii is west of California but east of the Philippines, for example. Even the names of the biggest Jodo Shinshu denominations Nishi and Higashi Hongwanji are just for convenience to describe their relative location to one another.

Rev. Sol Kalu



Suffice it to say that the Western Pure Land is the realm of the Buddhas, purely spiritual, no physical shape or form. It is a place where suffering does not exist, none of the pains, sorrow, and hardship of human life can be found in the Pure Land.

Is Amida Buddha really out there in the western pure land, or just a metaphor for the original Buddha, Shakyamuni?

Our reality is only what our senses are telling us right now. Nobody has gone to the Pure Land and come back, describing it in detail. Simply stated, depending on how one understands or looks at it, the Pure Land could be a real Western spiritual place or merely a metaphor for the state of enlightenment.

Real or just a metaphor, it doesn't really matter. What's important is to recognize that it's there and that it is the ultimate goal of Pure Land Buddhist practice. If there is confusion, it is still ok; it is precisely because we are confused that the Buddha's Primal Vow is working even more strongly for us. That is why the state of achieving the entrusting mind, shinjin, is synonymous with enlightenment. With enlightenment comes wisdom, we can then know what the Pure Land truly is and with that knowledge comes peace, tranquility, bliss and the joy of liberation from the sufferings of the world of delusion. Let Amida Buddha take charge of these matters, let the Power of the Primal Vow grasp us, let the Buddha's light of wisdom illuminate the darkness of our minds and bring us to the light of the realm of the Pure Land, literal or metaphor. Namo Amida Butsu.



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 SEPTEMBER.

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.

President's Message

A Letter from Alan Tomita, Betsuin President



I'd like to start off by thanking all those who participated in the O-Bon Lantern program. Many of you bought more than one lantern and a lot of you made an additional donation. One donor contributed \$2,000.00 which was awesome. The total amount raised was over \$23,000.00. This amount almost matched the \$25,000.00 which the temple usually raised in past O-Bons before the pandemic. Again, thank you all very much!

In a related matter, the Board will be holding a strategic planning event in the near future. One of the key subjects will be how the temple will be able to survive in the future. The temple basically operates on the generosity of its congregation and friends of the temple. A simple breakdown of the expected income and expenses for this year's budget of \$1.36 Million is as presented in the box.

The top three Income items, a total of \$360,000, are dependent on the generosity of the congregation and friends of the temple. Our membership count is now approximately 600. So if you do the math, an average donation of \$600 per member is needed to reach the expected goal. Needless to say, this will change as our membership decreases each year.

The rainy day source where the \$310,000 transfer comes from will not last very long. Membership will most likely continue to decline if we do nothing to reverse the trend. Therefore, we are now actively looking into how we can strengthen our financial status. This may require revising temple operating policies that have been in effect for over 36 years, which is how long I have been part of the Board of Directors. A strategic planning event is being scheduled by our Executive Director where this issue will probably be discussed.

In the meantime, your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. When a resolution or some type of plan can be formulated to address our financial situation, we will need everyone's help. Please remember, that unlike religions that rely on a tithe system (usually contributions by its members of up to 10% of their annual income), the temple relies on your yearly donations.

Thank you.

In Gassho,
Alan

INCOME

a. Other Donations	140,000
b. Year-End Fund Drive	135,000
c. Special Events (O-Bon, Golf, Bazaar, etc.)	110,000
d. Membership Dues	175,000
e. Services/Offerings	145,000
f. Rentals	235,000
g. Other	85,000
h. Transfer	310,000
Total Income	1,360,000

EXPENSES

a. Salary/Wages/Benefits	675,000
b. Casual Hire	50,000
c. Headquarters Assessment	48,000
d. Supplies/Equipment (incl. AV)	125,000
e. Propagation/Program	32,000
f. Special Events	52,000
g. Utilities/Security	140,000
h. Repair & Maintenance	100,000
i. Insurance	50,000
j. Professional Services	50,000
k. General/Misc. Expenses	30,000
Total Expenses	1,360,000

BWA News and Events

PREVENTING DEMENTIA: Researchers followed more than 302,000 people around age 60 for eight years. Those with familial predisposition for dementia cut their risk by adopting at least three of the behaviors listed. The more they adopted, the more additional protection was provided.

Get 150 minutes or more a week of moderate to vigorous activity.

Sleeping 6 to 9 hours a night.

Having no more than 2 (men) or 1 (women) alcoholic drinks a day.

Not smoking.

Eating plant-based diet.

PREVENT FALLS AT HOME:

1. Review your medications with your doctor and learn about the side effects, particularly if they affect balance or the ability to be awake.

2. Be informed about any medical conditions that could make you more prone to falls. 3. Other tips: Wear shoes, not slippery socks or flip-flops. Remove clutter from high traffic areas and secure the rugs. Keep your home brightly lit, and place a night light in rooms and hallways. Use an assistive device, such as a walker or cane, if needed. If you have pets, be aware that they might be at your feet. If you've already fallen, stay active. Gentle exercise, such as walking or tai chi, improves strength, balance, coordination and flexibility. Report all of your falls to your doctor.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN JAPAN:

Sakura Jima, which is located in the ocean which divides Kagoshima, erupted on July 24th. Japan is facing many disasters this season besides encountering the deadly coronavirus. Japanese have been wearing masks for decades, yet perhaps they live too closely to one another making it easier to catch diseases and bacteria. Sumo in Nagoya in the month of July was a disaster as well with many of the sumotori catch-

ing the Coronavirus and withdrawing from the tournament. Hopefully the next tournament in Tokyo in September will be safe for all. For the July tournament, low ranked Ichinojo was the champion, with 12 wins and 3 losses.

JAPANESE CLASSES TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER:

Save your Wednesday mornings, from 9:00 to 10:30 am and attend the Japanese language class with instructor Rev. Toshima. The classes are held in the annex temple, and the lessons are very stimulating and enjoyable. Whether you know Japanese, or want to learn Japanese, join the class. The first class will begin on Wednesday, September 7 from 9:00 am. All you need are enthusiasm and ears to listen and perhaps a pencil and tablet to take notes. You do not need to worry about tests, for we do not have any. Just stay healthy and wear a mask when you come to class. I can guarantee that you will enjoy the class.

Due to the uncertainties on health issues, it is difficult to plan on activities and classes which have been closed for a while, such as Sumi-e. Hopefully we can recover in the near future. Meanwhile do take care of your health and continue to practice your hobbies like painting, etc. If you have bad habits, try to correct them while you can, such as smoking and eating fatty foods. You know that they are bad for you and only you can cure those bad habits of yourself. You were not born with those bad habits; you picked them up yourself, so how about getting rid of them now since you are intelligent and can realize the damage that those bad habits can cause to you and your family. Set a deadline or goal of when you will quit

Fujiko Motobu

and change your habits and go for it. You can do it.

HUMOR: Humor is essential in preventing dementia.

Your brain needs to exercise; therefore, you need to react to humor by laughing whole heartedly. Read humorous books and interact with people so you can react and laugh. Barbara and Barry Brennan gave me a lot of humorous stories, poems, and play on words and I would like to share them with you. Interesting concepts: 1. In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb." 2. Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled, "Gentlemen Only. Ladies Forbidden." Thus the word GOLF entered into the English language. 3. The first couple to be shown in bed together on primetime TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone. 4. Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better. 5. Coca-Cola was originally green. 6. It is impossible to lick your elbow. 7. The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven is \$16,400. 8. Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair. 9. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what? Their birthplace. 10. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"? "One thousand." 11. What is the only food that doesn't spoil? "Honey." 12. Figure this one out. $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 =$ give up? The answer is: 12,345,678,987,654,321.



Aspiration for 4 Petals Peace (Walk) Bell Ringing Gathering (2022)

by Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Nagasaki Peace Bell Memorial

August 9, 2022

As we gather today, regardless of national origin, ethnicity and religious affiliation, let us reflect and rededicate ourselves to world peace and harmony, to a world that is free of nuclear weapons of destruction and there is deep respect for human life. May we be guided and inspired by Enlightened Wisdom and Compassion.

Today, I would like to share some insights and a famous Buddhist parable from the Pure Land Buddhist Tradition known as the "Parable of the Two Rivers and the White Path." Our predicament is described as a lonely lost traveler walking alone where I find myself trapped between two raging rivers of fire and water which are engulfing me. Our reality is that many are not even aware of the raging waters of greed and the raging fires of anger which threaten all of us. Some people are aware of it, but don't know what to do and thus in deep despair. According to the Parable, Sakyamuni Buddha, the Historic Buddha, is encouraging us to seek refuge in an All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion, AMIDA, which calls out to each and every one of us especially to those of us who are living in these Latter Days when 1) wars and natural disasters abound, 2) there is a confusion of values, 3) there is increased anger, greed and ignorance, 4) inferior quality of human life including egotism, and 5) the wasting and shortening of human life.

Does this not sound like our world today with all the racial discrimination, political chaos, natural disasters including the Pandemic, wars including

gun violence related to mass shootings etc. which are affecting all of us very negatively. So many people, in general, are reacting to all these situations with such intensity, division, and hate. My thought is how crucial it is for all of us, instigators and victims, to respond and not react to people and situations. Here is where Buddhism with its teachings of being mindful and reflection including reflecting on oneself to see how easy it is for the "ugly" side of me to appear becomes really meaningful and relevant. So, we can, as much as possible, respond and not react.

Further, let us not lose hope. As one source explains, although it is the Latter Days, "typically this was not a cause for despair, because this scheme was accompanied by teachings that the Buddha, having foreseen the coming of this dark age, had provided beforehand...(that) which were suitable for the time." Our rescue is a Wisdom and Compassion which includes everyone and everything in its embrace and tempers our negativity with awareness and where in gratitude of Great Compassion and deep lament of my limited self, we respond to it by embracing the aspiration for peace and harmony in the world for both self and others by awakening to True Reality.

May we all be guided, nurtured and embraced by All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion so that as another sutra states, "The land is prosperous and people live in peace, so there is no need to use soldiers and weapons. People respect virtue, cultivate benevolence, and diligently observe propriety and humility."

Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion/

Namo Amida Butsu.



photo by Rev. Furusawa

Annual Give Aloha Fund Drive September 1 - 30; Use Code 78500

September is Give Aloha Month!

Coincides with Start of End of Year Fund Drive

During September, you can make a donation to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin at any Foodland or Sack N Save checkout. In turn, Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will make a donation to the temple too!

How to Donate:

- 1) Shop at Foodland or Sack N Save.
- 2) Show your Maika'i card to the cashier or enter your phone number at check out.
- 3) Tell the cashier Hawaii Betsuin's code number, 78500, and the amount of your donation (up to \$249).
- 4) Review your receipt to confirm the following appears: our temple name, your donation amount, and your Maika'i number.

September also marks the beginning of our End of Year Fund Drive (a separate appeal letter will be mailed) If you would like your Give Aloha donation to count toward your end-of-year donation total, please bring in or mail us a copy of your receipt along with any additional donation.

Please Support the Hawaii Betsuin!
USE CODE 78500



Ringling Bells for Peace Day on September 21!

September 21 each year is Peace Day - the UN-recognized International Day of Peace as well as Peace Day in Hawaii. For the third year in a row, Hongwanji's statewide Peace Day Committee is organizing a **Ringling Bells for Peace Day** event in which groups and individuals around Hawaii and the world can join on Zoom for a short program that concludes in a joyous and simultaneous ringing of bells. More information and registration are available at bit.ly/PeaceDay2022. You may also request a form from Peace Day Committee chair Rene Mansho at 808-291-6151 or renemansho@hawaii.rr.com. To see videos of past events, search for "ring your bell for peace day" on YouTube.

Submitted by David Atcheson



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!

Kauai Hongwanji Council Nembutsu Seminar

"A Look at

Shinran Shonin's
Life and Thought"

Friday, November 18,
5 - 7 pm via Zoom

Speaker:

Rev. Dr Takashi Miyaji

Registration Fee: Free (Registration Required) Donations can be made to the Kauai Hongwanji Council.

Registration Fee: Free (Registration Required) Donations can be made to the Kauai Hongwanji Council. Please make a check payable to Kauai Hongwanji Council and send it to Lihue Hongwanji Mission 3-3556 Kuhio Highway, Lihue, HI 96766.

Registration Deadline:
November 11, 2022

<https://forms.gle/52xuXUfLduCuXh1PA>

Message from the Executive Director: Jon Matsuoka



An analysis of Honpa Hongwanji system data over the last 15 years indicates that all temples experienced declining membership, though some fared better financially. Those doing comparatively well adopted a business model of operation to offset diminishing membership fee collections. Not surprisingly, their temple membership was declining at a slower rate as new non-traditional members were joining. They attribute this to greater public exposure that comes with programs and services. The benefits of successful temple sponsored programs are twofold: revenue generation and propagation.

Yet, Honpa Hongwanji membership as we know it may be passe. In a recent Betsuin sponsored focus group involving younger people, participants attributed their lack of participation in temple affairs to little discretionary time and interest, lack of meaningful and age-appropriate offerings, institutional entrenchment, etc. The likelihood of younger generations assuming the role of their parents and grandparents on a scale needed to sustain the Mission is slim. They have been

socialized in a vastly different era and have different priorities and needs. Every generation seems to lament this about the next, but this time it's really real. The irony about pulling away is that Buddhism is the perfect antidote for those lost to the pace and pointlessness of modern life.

A big and ongoing challenge is how to alter services and messaging to attract younger cohorts and those searching for a better religious fit. From what I've seen, Buddhism framed in relevant and contemporary terms has the power to attract countless people in search of grounding and meaning. Yet with few exceptions, we continue to operate in the same archaic fashion that draws little interest beyond our most duteous members. Failure to innovate will most certainly tie us to a destine comparable to JCPenney and Blackberry.

New ideas abound, and so does resistance to change. One thing for sure, unless we apply alternatives to mem-

bership driven models of sustainability, we will perish with the last standing member.

And that point in time is already upon us. When successfully applied, models of social entrepreneurship will allow us freedom and flexibility to innovate and contemporize, attract a broader spectrum of people to Sangha, and depend less on membership as a means to longevity.

New Betsuin Business Office Hours

The Betsuin business office is now closed for lunch from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. Please note that during this time, if all of the ministers are out of the office for services, access to the Nokotsudo will not be available. Please call before coming to the Nokotsudo between the hours of 12 noon and 1:00 pm. Mahalo!

September Speaker Schedule

9/4

8:00AM	Japanese	Rev. Shigenori Makino
9:00AM	DS	No Service
10:00AM	English	Rev. Shingo Furusawa

9/11

8:00AM	Japanese	Rev. Yuika Hasebe
9:00AM	DS	Rev. Shingo Furusawa
10:00AM	English	Rev. Sol Kalu

9/18 Autumn Higan Service

8:00AM	Japanese	Rev. Daido Baba
9:30AM	English Combined	Rev. LaVerne Sasaki

9/25

8:00AM	Japanese	Rev. Shingo Furusawa
9:00AM	DS	DS teacher
10:00AM	English	Mr. Pieper Toyama

We're Collecting Aloha Shirts

The Betsuin BWA continues to collect aloha shirts for distribution to our military serving overseas. Please contact Jo desMarets (purpleldy2@aol.com) to donate aloha shirts or for more information!

See Facebook photos of our heroes receiving their Aloha Shirts while serving in remote locations around the world!

**"Hawaiian Shirts
for Deployed Soldiers"**



Scouting News:



Boy Scout Troop 49

And the winner of the Go Kart racing event was.....the Scorpion Patrol. They won both the timed event and the distance events. Way to go!! This activity was definitely a fun and great learning experience for everyone.

The rest of July's theme was "Camping" led by the Scorpion patrol. Scouts focused on different aspects of camping because of our annual summer camp that was held at Camp Palehua later in the month. We even held a



special Eagle Court of Honor. The first couple of weeks were dedicated to planning and conducting the Iron Chef competition. Patrols planned their meals, and shopped for their ingredients. They cooked a meal using the secret ingredient, mushrooms. The Cobra Patrol won the competition with their dish of steak. On July 24th, Troop 49 held an Eagle Court of Honor that recognized scouts that earned the highest rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Court of Honor has

Dillon Pang, Troop 49

not been held the past two years due to the COVID 19 pandemic; it was great to, once again, hold this important event. The following scouts were recognized during the Eagle Court of Honor: Jordan Furuta (2022), Sean Furuta (2022), Byron Saito (2021), Jason Ebesu (2021), Ryden Sumi (2021), and Noah Zane (2022). Congratulations to each of them and best wishes on their future endeavors.

From July 25th to 29th, the Troop held its annual summer camp at Camp Palehua (formerly known as Camp Timberline). It was our first time at this campsite. Scouts were able to earn up to 6 merit badges. Scouts were also able to participate in the astronomy merit badge offered by Stargazers of Hawai'i. They were able to use two high class telescopes to look at stars and were able to see the planet Saturn. Scouts planned, shopped and cooked their meals for the entire camp and cooked some great meals. They enjoyed several campfires and the awesome campfire snacks that came along with it. The Troop went on two separate hikes, one that took them to some World War II era lookouts and one that looked into Nanakuli valley. The pool time was enjoyed by all, even some of the adult leaders joined in. The weather was perfect, nice and dry with a brisk breeze. It even got "chilly" at nights where jackets were worn. Overall they had an enjoyable time, created lasting memories and can't wait for the next camp.

Looking forward, the troop will start to shift its leadership team as Troop elections will be held to select a new Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), as well as a new leadership team. This new leadership team will lead our Troop for the next six months. Stay tuned for more information as to what Troop 49 is doing...



Mahalo continued from page 1

Head of School Dave Randall, Athletic Director Troy Kimura, and Teacher Davin Miyamura won the first prize, \$200 ProAm gift cards. Then because this year was the 25th anniversary, the 25th place team won a special prize, which was Bom Tokusen Junmai Daiginjo sake, and the team was again the HMS team!

There were raffle prizes: Vacations Hawaii Las Vegas package, \$400 Foodland GC, \$300 ProAm gift card; and there were door prizes: Vacations Hawaii Las Vegas Package and \$100 Tango gift card. The lucky winners were Chad Kajiware, Larry Kaya, Wes Mikuni, Jay Omaye, and Reid Yamamoto, but every team won something.

The golf tournament brought in about \$28,000 to the Hawaii Betsuin. For this and for a smooth event, Mel sends his sincerest mahalo to the golfers, volunteers, sponsors, donors, Ala Wai Golf Course, and L&L at Ala Wai. His final words: See you next year on Thursday, August 10, 2023. Thank you!

Headquarters Connections

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



“AMIDA, I choose you!”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

From the Opening Service of the 65th Jr. YBA State Convention,
June 17-19, 2022, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, Hawaii Island

On behalf of the entire Sangha of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, from Hawaii Island to Kauai, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Associations as we gather for our 65th Jr. YBA State Convention, the first in-person Convention after 2 virtual conventions.

Thank you for responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha's Great Love and Unconditional Compassion. In the "The Teaching of Buddha," we find that "One should never forget that it is not because of one's own compassion that

one has awakened faith (True Entrusting), but because of Buddha's compassion which long ago threw its pure light into human minds and dispelled the darkness of ignorance."

In the famous "Parable of the Two Rivers and the White Path," we also find that Amida Buddha calls "...with mind that is single, with right-mindedness, come at once! I will protect you. Have no fear of plunging [in]to...the [raging] water or fire [of greed and anger]." How wonderful and kind of Amida Buddha, don't you think?

Amida Buddha is calling out to each and every one of us, especially to those of us who are living in these Latter Days of the Buddhist Teachings, 1) a world of wars and where natural disasters abound, 2) there is confusion of values, 3) increased anger, greed and ignorance, 4) inferior quality of human life including egotism, and 5) the wasting and shortening of human life known as the five defilements. Sound familiar?

I have noticed that since the Pandemic started, physicians are asking regularly if people are experiencing depression and anxiety caused by the Pandemic and also caused by all the social issues like discrimination, political divide, wars, gun related mass shootings, and so many other incidents that affect people very negatively with fear and despair. People seem to be reacting to all these situations with such intensity and hate. It reminds me of what is written in the Smaller Sutra about this Latter Age of the Dharma when the blind passions of anger, greed, and ignorance greatly intensify, a time when the Teachings of Namo Amida Butsu become appropriate and needed more than ever.

When I deeply reflect on our Convention Theme, "AMIDA, I choose you!", I conclude that this is possible because Amida Buddha has already chosen you and me, actually chosen all of us! Please reflect, including self-reflect, on the world and ourselves as bonbu/spiritually foolish beings, come to realize the depth and breadth of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion, and live in full awareness and joyous appreciation of Amida Buddha's Great Love and Compassion that reaches out to embrace and nurture us! Please join me in gassho/anjali. Namo Amida Butsu, Namo Amida Butsu, Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

*Edited by Hawaii Betsuin Board members Steve Lohse and Cindy Alm.
For the complete text of "AMIDA, I choose you!" see [2022-06HQUpdate.pdf](#)*

Radio Programs SEPTEMBER 2022

Japanese Language,
SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM

03....Rev. Shingo Furusawa
10....Rimban Kazunori Takahashi
17....Rev. Masanari Yamagishi
24....Rev. Tomo Hojo

SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS

Please see page 7

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 resumes on September 11, 2022

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 hawaiihetsuin.org. You may also check the Betsuin Bulletin sent by email on Fridays (subscribe at hawaiihetsuin.org/email-signup/). Or, call the office at (808) 536-7044.



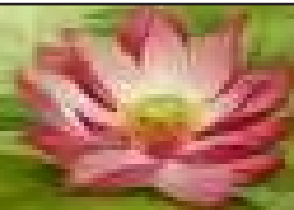
In Memoriam



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

4/14/2020	OKA, Yayoi (91)
7/12/2021	WATANABE, Kenneth Kenjiro (88)
4/19/2022	YASUI, Betram Seikichi (80)
5/4/2022	YORITA, Frances Sumiko (93)
5/7/2022	MATSUMOTO, Mitsue (100)
5/19/2022	TOMITA, Richard Uichiro (93)
7/1/2022	YOSHIOKA, Thomas Takao (91)
7/2/2022	KOMEYA, Franklin Yozo (89)
7/3/2022	MIYASAKI, Kenzo (99)
7/5/2022	SAKATA, Kazuko (94)
7/10/2022	OSHIRO, Masanobu (91)
7/12/2022	NAKAMOTO, Norma Yoshiko (87)
7/16/2022	IKEUCHI, Teruko Tominaga (95)
7/19/2022	KAMEMOTO, Alice Takeyo (83)
7/23/2022	WATANABE, James Kenzo (95)
7/27/2022	NAGATA, Nobuo (100)

**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
2020: 3rd year	2006: 17th year
2016: 7th year	1998: 25th 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