



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

Vol. 77 No. 12



DECEMBER 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 Schedule of Upcoming Special Services

Please Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Join Us!

You are cordially invited to some special services.

December is the beginning of a very busy holiday season. It is a special month for Buddhists! On Bodhi day, we celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's reaching Enlightenment, and we show appreciation to him for revealing the path to freedom from suffering for all beings. For Mary Mikahala Foster's commemoration service, we express our sincere appreciation to Mary Mikahala Foster and all who supported Hawaii Betsuin. Their legacy remains strong within the Hongwanji sangha. The New Year's Eve service and New Year's Day service will be held on 12/31 and 1/1. Please join the special New Year's Eve ringing of the bell service at Hawaii Betsuin, and let's start fresh at the New Year's Day service with a feeling of gratitude. Please find more detailed information at hawaiibetsuin.org. Despite many challenges and pain, we deeply appreciate that we could journey together with you in 2022. Hawaii Betsuin actively commits itself to sharing the joy of the teaching of Buddha which is compassion and wisdom, embracing all living beings and promoting peace. Your continuous support for Hawaii Betsuin is greatly appreciated. Namo Amida Butsu

Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service

Date: 12/4/2022

Time: 9:30AM

Place: Jodo Mission

Speaker: Roshi Michael Kieran

Platform: In person and Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 847 6316 5946 Passcode: HBC

Hawaii Betsuin Bodhi Day Service

Date: 12/11/2022

Time: 9:30AM

Speaker: Dr. Carl Becker

Platform: In person and Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 873 7494 8362 Passcode: HIBETSUIN

Mary Mikahala Foster Commemoration Service

Date: 12/28/2022

Time: 9:30AM

Speaker: Roshi Norma Wong

Platform: In person and Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 873 7494 8362 Passcode: HIBETSUIN

New Years 2023

New Year's Eve Service

Date: 12/31/2022

Time: 11:00PM

Platform: In person (Zoom TBD)

New Year's Day Service

Date: 1/1/2023

Time: 10:00AM

Platform: In person (Zoom TBD)

Dharma Message: “Bodhi Day”

Bodhi Day is considered by Buddhist traditions all over the world as the day that Shakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment. On that day he awakened to the truth, after many years of subjecting his body to difficult practices without attaining anything. What is enlightenment? In both the ancient Pali and Sanskrit languages of ancient India, the word “bodhi” is traditionally translated in English as “enlightenment” but also means awakened. The root word of bodhi is “budh” which means to awake, become aware, notice, know or understand and from that root word ‘budh’ comes the word “buddha” to refer to someone who has fully awakened to the true nature of the universe. Bodhi then is the knowledge

possessed by a Buddha into the true state of things or Dharma. According to the story of the enlightenment of the Buddha, Prince Siddhartha in his quest for the goal of enlightenment subjected himself to all kinds of bodily pain and discomfort to get rid of his passions and desires which were believed to be hindrances to achieving spiritual awakening. He did severe fasting also, eating only a single grain of rice a day until he became all skin and bones. But all these extreme ascetic practices did not lead him anywhere until he came to the realization that neither too harsh discipline nor too lax and easy practice will produce results. Comparing it to the strings of a musical instrument, too loose strings will produce no music and too tight will not give the right tune and break easily. The Buddha concluded that the middle path is the best approach, neither too

Rev. Sol Kalu



tight or too loose as in the strings of the musical instrument. After this realization, the Buddha was too weak from hunger but a maid named Sujata offered him a meal of rice milk and after eating and regaining his strength he resolved to continue his pursuit of enlightenment. He resolved that, under the Bodhi tree, he would never rise again until he had attained full enlightenment. So, the story goes on that the Buddha spent the nights in meditation, was tempted and attacked numerous times by the demons of the god Mara but the Buddha did not give in to all evil forces that were launched against him. Finally, he became the Buddha, the Enlightened one, went on to become a great world teacher and Buddhism was born. **Continued on page 8**



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@hawaiiibetsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (808-536-0919). Address submissions to the **GOJI**. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

GOJI STAFF:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Shingo Furusawa, Japanese section editor* Production: *Colleen Kunishige, David Atcheson*; Circulation: *Colleen Kunishige, Elmer Cagaoan*; 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.*

DECEMBER 2022 Betsuin Speaker Schedule

If you have any questions, please call the Betsuin office (808) 536-7044

12/11: Betsuin Bodhi Day service

8:00AM Japanese service - Rev. Furusawa

9:00AM DS service - Rev. Kalu

9:30AM Betsuin Bodhi Day service - Dr. Carl Becker

10:45AM-11:30AM Dharma Dialogue

12/18: Mary Mikahala Foster Commemoration Service

8:00AM Japanese service - Rev. Hasebe

9:30AM Mary M. Foster Commemoration Service - Ms. Norma Wong:
(combined adult/Dharma School)

12/31/2022 New Year's Eve service

11:00PM - English Rev. Hasebe

Japanese Rev. Furusawa

1/1/2023 New Year's Day service

10:00AM - English Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Japanese Rev. Hasebe

President's Message: Alan Tomita



Wow, it's the end of the year already. I hope 2022 has been mostly good for all of you. As 2022 winds down, I look back at the past 11 months. I learned a lot as I conversed with the Board members, temple friends, ministers, staff, and especially our new Executive Director and Business Manager. Working together, we have begun moving forward.

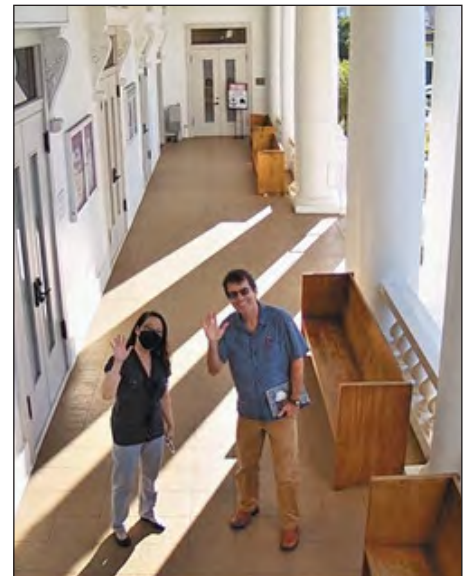
May I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to all of the volunteers who stepped forward to help whenever help was needed. Thank you to the Officers and Board for your willingness and patience to try new things. Thank you to the ministers, who have been working hard even though they are understaffed and had to adjust to the need for Zooming. Thank you to the staff for being flexible as changes were made. Thank you, Dave Atcheson, for doing all that you do.

I also send a sincerest mahalo to all who financially supported the Betsuin this year. Your dues, special services donation, Obon and memorial services donation, Foodland Give Aloha participation, and Year End fund donation helped greatly. I ask for everyone's continued assistance to keep our temple strong.

Arigato and Happy Holidays!

New Security Cameras Installed at the Betsuin

Candid camera! Our long-awaited security cameras, which had been subject to lengthy supply chain delays, are being installed. These wired cameras tie in well with our advanced wireless connectivity to allow real-time monitoring prior to nighttime lockup as well as review of any unusual activity after the fact. Your donations to the temple make these security and other enhancements to our facilities possible. Mahalo! (The image is a cropped screen shot of Ashleigh and Dave in a not-so-candid pose for one of the video cameras.)



Giving Directly from Your Traditional IRA Has Significant Tax Advantages

Giving Directly from Your Traditional IRA Has Significant Tax Advantages
Disclaimer: The information in this article is not individualized financial advice. Please consult with your financial advisor and/or accountant to determine what's best for your situation.

Toward the end of the year, the volume of donations to Hawaii Betsuin typically goes up. Checks continue to come in for the End of Year Fund Drive, there is an occasional donation

of appreciated stock, and general donations increase. Hawaii Betsuin depends on these donations to help close budget gaps. The ministerial and lay leadership are deeply appreciative of your kokua.

One lesser-known way to give is to donate a portion of a required minimum distribution from your traditional IRA (individual retirement account). When IRA holders reach the age of 72 (or if they reached 70 1/2 prior to Jan. 1, 2020), IRS rules

are triggered that specify "required minimum distributions." Normally, required minimum distributions are subject to income tax. But you can instruct the institution that holds your IRA to send part of the required distribution directly to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (tax id# 99-0200874).

When a distribution from your IRA comes directly to the temple without going to one of your personal accounts first, it is not subject to taxation. You

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BWA News and Events

JODO SHINSHU PRACTICES: from the booklet, "Buddhism The Path of Enlightenment"; copyright 1986, 2nd edition, 2000: Kubose Dharma Legacy.

Statues of the Buddha are not idols to be worshipped, but they are symbols of enlightenment representing the ideals of wisdom and compassion.

Burning of incense calms the people with its sweet fragrance and passes over selfishness and ego to become one with all others.

Flowers symbolize the teaching of impermanence, that they are beautiful in the morning, but fade in the heat during the day. All things change, including life and should be fully appreciated in the "eternal now."

Candlelight is a symbol of wisdom, from which we understand truth.

Gassho, hands together in front of the heart, symbolizes the unity of oneself with Buddha and is the highest form of respect.

Meditation beads, or Nenju or Ojuzu are used when doing Gassho. They are not prayer beads but a symbol of unity and harmony.

Buddhism emphasizes TRUTH rather than God, MEDITATION rather than Prayer, ENLIGHTENMENT rather than Salvation, and UNIVERSAL LIFE rather than individual soul.

Buddha taught us to "Live like the Lotus." Although growing in a muddy pond, the Lotus remains pure, not defiled by its environment. Anger, greed and ignorance can be overcome through wisdom.

CONGRATULATIONS, AN EDUCATOR'S MOMENT: Hawaii Teacher of the Year

In last month's Goji, we noted that Mel Ida's son and Irene Ida's stepson, Mike Ida, was named 2023 Hawaii State Teacher of the Year in a ceremony at Washington Place. A Kalani High School math and computer science teacher, Mike was hailed by his peers as a very special teacher, who works extra hard. Michael Otani, principal of Kalani High School, and Governor David Ige were on hand to congratulate Mike at the ceremony.

With outstanding teachers such as Mike Ida, Kalani High School has been producing many outstanding students, and at times with over thirty high school valedictorian graduates in one graduating class.

Very devoted and intelligent teachers are hard to come by because a teacher needs to spend many hours in preparing lessons for the students as well as correcting papers, giving students encouragement and stimulating talks to work hard. Parents who support their children positively with encouragement are very important support for the students. Students, especially in high school need a lot of guidance. Parents are the necessary tools, yet many times parents ignore the teenagers' problems. Good family relationship is noted in the good academic growth of the students and parents do play a big part. In this case, congratulations to Mel and Irene in having a fine son. Mel and Irene are both our BWA members \ and are actively involved in our activities. We are very proud of the recipient, Mike

Fujiko Motobu

Ida, as well as his parents, Mel and Irene Ida. Congratulations from all of us.

EXERCISE: Exercise is essential for the body as well as for the mind or brain. When we are young the body moves easily, so we can walk, run, skip, jump, climb, crawl, and do all kinds of exercises. But, when you get old, somehow the body joints do not work as well as they did when you were young. In fact, every place begins to ache. Therefore, we shall stick to just one exercise and that is WALKING.

A UK study showed that walking 10,000 steps each day can help cut the risk of dementia by half. Taking 3,800 steps a day was found to reduce risk by 25%. Falling is the danger that we need to avoid, but we need to put our mind together and begin to walk, but walk carefully, in order to prevent dementia.

HUMOR: One Sunday morning just prior to the service, the minister noticed that the regular organist was missing and a substitute was there. The sub asked the minister what the program was like and which music he was to play. The minister answered that he could just select his own music of choice.

Just before the service began, the minister made an announcement. He said that due to a heavy leak in the roof, a donation of \$4,000.00 was being solicited and he asked if anyone donating \$100.00 would stand up, so he could count the number. Right after this announcement, the organist played nice and loudly the Star Spangled Banner, and everyone stood up. It was the best day, ever. for the minister.



Dharma School News

We are so happy to have in-person Dharma School Services and activities which started on Sunday, September 11. It has been wonderful to see some families that have returned to Dharma School after the long hiatus due to the pandemic. We had an average of about 24 students and family members attending each Sunday.

Our first Dharma School session was on Grandparents' Day, with Mrs. Dianne Ida as our guest speaker. She talked about the gravity of the day, remembering 9/11, Hurricane Iniki, and the joys of this day, Grandparents' Day. To get to know everyone, we held a "Find Someone Who" activity. Everyone had fun getting to know each

other by finding "someone who" is an only child, has played in the snow, likes to dance, loves to cook, etc.

For Fall Higan, a day of "perfect balance," we had an activity where the students rolled a big die and each number represented a balance activity such as balancing a spoon on your nose, balancing a pencil on your finger, or building a card house. It was so much fun to see all the students doing their best to perform these challenging balance activities.

On October 16, the Betsuin Dharma School visited Jikoen Hongwanji for their Family Dharma Moments Service and Activity. Reverend Shindo Nishiyama and Pieper Toyama conducted



Debbie Kubota

the service and activity, which focused on sutra chanting. We plan to have more exchanges with Jikoen throughout the year, with alternating visits to our temples and fun, interactive intergenerational activities.

For Halloween, the Dharma message, shared by Jovie Yoshioka, was "The Story of the Mask," about Renyo Shonin, folklore from the Yoshizaki Area. For our activity, everyone enjoyed decorating paper plates and making their own masks. Some of our students, parents and ministers came dressed in their costumes.

We would like to recognize and thank our students who have been emcees and aspiration readers; Talin Giang, Chris Leu, Keiden and Naya Furuyama, Kainoa and Kenji Brennan, Kim and Dean Tse-Castro, Jayce and Makana Labuguen. We really appreciate their willingness to step up and speak in front of our sangha.



Our focus for Dharma School Activities right now is the Eightfold Path. The students traced and cut out Dharma Wheels then put each of the element descriptions on the spokes. So far they have learned about the first element, Right View. We used optical illusions to show the students that there are many different views and each one needs to be respected, as long as the truth is told.

We are looking forward to seeing more and more students and families as the year progresses. We have more activities planned for lots of fun and fellowship. Thanks for all of your support!



HAIB Celebrates 30th Anniversary at the Betsuin

Hawai'i Betsuin was the site for the 30-year anniversary celebration of HAIB, the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (<https://www.hawaiibuddhists.org/>). On Saturday, November 5, HAIB members and friends joined in the hondo for



a program of chanting by monks and ministers of multiple traditions plus two panel discussions featuring remembrances of HAIB's

history. Hawai'i Betsuin Acting Rimban Rev. Yuika Hasebe is a former HAIB board secretary and served as one of the moderators. The program continued in the social hall with bento lunch, entertainment, and a video presentation. HAIB livestreamed the event and the video is available on their YouTube channel. Note: This item originally appeared in the Betsuin Bulletin e-newsletter. Subscribe at <https://hawaiibetsuin.org/email-signup/>. Photos courtesy of Irene Nohara



61st Annual Nu'uano Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Honpa Hongwanji participated in the 61st Annual Nu'uano Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 22. During the "Sharing Words from Our Sacred Writings" part, Rev. Yuika Hasebe shared the Metta Sutta.

The service is on YouTube -- visit <http://hhhb.link/nvits22> play the Metta Sutta recitation. Under the video, display comments for a clickable table of contents to go directly to various parts of the service.



Hongwanji contingent at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Leaders from the faith groups participating in the service.

Betsuin's Rev. Hasebe



Honolulu Hongwanji Council (HHC) Field Trip to Ho'oulu 'Āina on November 4, 2022

'O ka hā o ka 'āina ke ola o ka po'e.
The breath of the land is the life of the people.

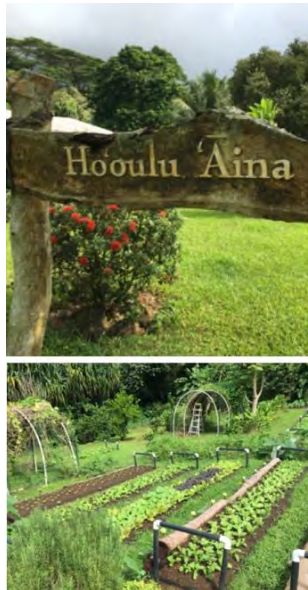
On a Friday morning in November with perfect weather, 25 people from Honolulu Hongwanji Council (HHC) made a field trip to Ho'oulu 'Āina in Kalihi Valley to come together around forest, food, knowledge, spirituality, and healthy activity. As Joanne Kealoha of Moiliili notes, Ho'oulu

'Āina is a 100-acre nature preserve in the back of Kalihi Valley that focuses on community health and on the freedom to make connections and build meaningful relationships with the 'āina, each other, and ourselves. See [Ho'oulu 'Āina \(hoouluaaina.org\)](https://hoouluaaina.org).

All four temples of the HHC participated in the field trip, organized by Hawaii Betsuin and the HHC Committee on Social Concerns (CSC). Members of the CSC include Pete Doktor of Jikoen, Joanne Kealoha of Moiliili, Prudence Kusano of Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT), and Dave Atcheson and Steve Lohse of Hawaii Betsuin. The Kyodan Committee on Social Concerns (Chair, Rev. Blayne Higa) and the Hawaii Betsuin Social Concerns Committee combined resources to make a grateful donation to Ho'oulu 'Āina.

As Prudence Kusano of WBT says, "We were pleasantly surprised at the setting, the knowledgeable people, and impressed with the work they do for the community and how similar their views are to ours." This field trip was fully as inspirational and value affirming as we hoped it would be, as well as just plain outdoors fun, and the HHC CSC gratefully shares this community-building experience in hopes that other Kyodan District Committees on Social Concerns might organize their own field trips. Namo Amida Butsu. - Steve Lohse

Ho'oulu 'Āina is a project of Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, a federally qualified health center. Volunteer work sessions are held Monday and Wednesday mornings (register at <https://hoouluaaina.org/volunteer>). Photos courtesy David Atcheson and Jon Matsuoka.



Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Donation *Thank You*

Donation: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Donation type: ☐ General ☐ End of Year ☐ Other: _____

*Checks may be made to "Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin" or "HHHB" and mailed to:
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813*

To donate online, please see <https://hawaii.betsuin.org/donate-online>.

Dharma Message continued from page 2

Although we as ordinary human beings could no longer accomplish such a difficult goal as enlightenment through our own self power, we can learn a lot from this story of Buddha's awakening. From this experience of the Buddha, we can apply the same principles that he successfully used to achieve his goal. He set upon a specific objective, that is, enlightenment, a way to eliminate the pain and suffering that he saw in this world, and he focused on that one and only goal alone. Next he gave up the pleasures of life that he had known as a prince of a wealthy kingdom in order to seek enlightenment. The Buddha tried the many different ways that he was taught by religious teachers, even the most difficult and painful ones, and he persevered at it. Finally, he learned from his experience, to let go and find other means, if the methods he tried were not working. All in all, the Buddha never gave up until he finally achieved what he was earnestly seeking.

I think we can apply those same ways that the Buddha used to our own goals in life. It may not be enlightenment or a sudden spiritual awakening but could be just about anything that we set our hearts to accomplish, like doing well in school, sports, arts or in later life, our careers or jobs. Going back to the story of Buddha's enlightenment, during the time when the evil god Mara attacked the Buddha while meditating, we can interpret those evil forces as our own internal vices that prevent us from developing in our Buddhist path or anything in life. Mara can represent doubt, cowardice, lack of dedication, laziness or arrogance. Our goal therefore, in emulating the Buddha's victory over the forces of evil, is to identify and defeat our own Maras that are the hindrance to our personal and spiritual development. By learning, correctly understanding and living the Buddha's teaching, we could wake up to a new vision of life

and a new way of living in the world. Just like the Wesak or Hanamatsuri, Bodhi Day is a day of rejoicing, for it was the time that the Buddha had rediscovered an ancient way of alleviating suffering and sorrow and shared it with many disciples and followers and ordinary people, for the next 45 years of his life. Had the Buddha not persevered, had he given up or let himself be defeated by the formidable obstacles that were blocking his path to becoming a Buddha, there would be no Buddhism today, we would not have known the way to our spiritual liberation. And so let us all be reminded again of the significance of Bodhi Day and show our respect and honor and give thanks to the man who transcended the limits of ordinary human beings to become the Buddha, the Exalted One, the Enlightened One, the Supremely Awakened One. Namo Tassa Bhagavatto, Arahato, Samma Sambuddhasa. Happy Bodhi Day everyone!

"Arigatai" From HMS Students

Students from the Hongwanji Mission School joined the November 13, 10:00 a.m service to say "Mahalo" for all of the support they receive from the Betsuin Sangha. The students sang "Arigatai" and presented original works of art to those present at the service.



General Membership Meeting and New Year's Party Returns to In-Person Event

Aloha Hawai'i Betsuin Members! Please save Sunday, January 29 for Hawai'i Betsuin's General Membership Meeting and New Year's Party. We are excited to be back in person in the social hall for 2023! The events will follow the Sunday service. First, we'll hold a brief membership meeting that includes a preliminary report on the recent strategic planning. The party will include a silent auction, luncheon, entertainment, games, and prizes. More information to come in the January Goji and with luncheon ticket order forms to be distributed later and available in the office. We look forward to seeing you there! Mahalo, Jon Matsuoka

Scouting News Girl Scout News and Events

Jesse Uemura, Cadette Troop 383



On October 23, 2022, all five Honpa Hongwanji Girl Scout troops attended their first in-person Investiture Ceremony since 2019. Gathered at the Main Hondo, new scouts were welcomed and returning scouts rededicated themselves to another year of scouting. New troop leaders were also recognized and welcomed. Our Intertroop team put together take-and-go sandwiches and snacks for both meat-lovers and vegetarians. Numerous people really enjoyed the vegetarian option! Investiture was a success, and it was nice having our formal ceremony in the beautiful Main Hondo.

The following week, scouts and siblings of Cadette Troop 383 had a lot of fun at the 2nd annual Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween Eve. During the celebration, scouts went from decorated car to decorated car, gathering candy and goodies with their friends. There were also games and activities, such as nerf gun target shooting, ring toss, rock painting, and mummify-a-dad! The day ended with a special ice cream treat. It was a really fun experience, since Halloween was on a Monday and most of us had homework to do!



Tax Advantages continued from page 3

would document how much of the distribution went to the temple and reduce your income for tax purposes accordingly. Itemizing deductions on your tax return is not required to take advantage of this tax benefit.

There are already a few Hawaii Betsuin members who donate in this way. But it probably will make sense for more

members and friends once they better understand the opportunity. We can be a resource along with your tax advisor and the institution that holds your IRA.

Hawaii Betsuin leaders need to (and do) think “outside the box” for ways to maintain income while facing demographic challenges to mem-

bership numbers and other metrics. Thank you in advance for considering donations directly from your IRA. We anticipate sharing other ideas in future issues of the Goji. If you have questions, please contact Business Manager Ashleigh Ito at (808) 536-7044 or aito@hawaiibetsuin.org. Mahalo!

Scouting News:



The end of the year is getting closer and closer, with expectations always rising for the upcoming holiday season. Troop 49's leadership team had a very triumphant month. We were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to bond and connect with the Cub Scouts from Pack 49 by camping with them, teaching them basic survival skills, playing fun ice breaker games, and a fun pancake activity with them.

To kick off the month of October, a joint camp was held on the first weekend with the Cub Scouts at Kualoa Beach Park. We felt very welcomed and were treated well with delicious meals. In return, our Troop helped the Arrow of Light (AOL) scouts learn key scouting skills which included setting up their own tents, as well as knife safety, first aid, and knot tying. After the main activities were completed, the whole camp had free time to enjoy the water and participate in a beach clean-up. Later at night, everyone enjoyed the traditional campfire with funny skits, and eating the traditional snacks of s'mores, hot dogs, Cup Noodles, and hot cocoa. The

Boy Scout Troop 49

camp was an overall great experience and a great last camp for the AOLs.

At the second meeting in October, we focused on preparation for the AOLs visit the following week. Patrol Leader Ty Shibata, Assistant Patrol Leader Talin Giang and the rest of the Cobra Patrol were tasked to plan this meeting as well as those for the rest of the month. Their chemistry and teamwork really showed and helped the meetings flow. To ensure a successful meeting with the AOLs, we practiced the activity which consisted of making a fire (with fuel, kindling, and tinder), cooking a pancake, flipping it over a line (roughly 9 feet above the ground), and successfully catching it back in the pan. Scouts geared up and were ready to teach the AOLs.

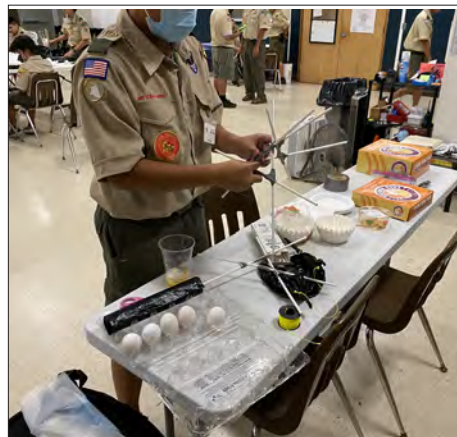
"Flip it!... flip it!...flip it!" "Woooooosh!" "Plop!" Some of the words and sounds heard at the meeting with the AOLs. Everyone had a blast! AOLs enjoyed the meeting to the fullest, feeling bonded and engaged in the meeting. When I asked some of the Cub Scouts the next day, they gave nothing but enthusiastic and delightful compliments about how they loved the activity, and would like to "redo the whole meeting again!"

The last meeting of October focused on fire building. Unlike the previous meetings, this meeting consisted of a

Davin Okino, Troop 49

competition between two teams to start a fire and boil soapy water. There was one uncontrollable variable during this activity that stopped the teams from finishing at the fastest expected time - rain. The rain was off and on, and soon enough Team 1 was able to get a fire going. Their soapy water fell into the fire, extinguishing it and forcing them to restart. Now with this, you would think that Team 2 would surely pull off the win, right? Well, Team 1 put together a bigger fire, and this time used the log cabin fire building technique. Their fire was overpowering, and soon they were even with Team 2. "One minute left!" was called by Talin Giang. Both teams were scrambling to get their soapy water to boil. With the last three seconds left, Talin started to say "Three, Two," and then someone said "Wait, wait, wait! It's boiling!" Team 1 was able to get the soapy water to boil! What a thrilling meeting and a great way to end the month. Thanks to the Cobra Patrol for a fun month of activities.

That's all for now... be on the lookout for more exciting news from Troop 49....



A Holiday Gift

from the
Bestuin Cub Scouts!

The Betsun Cub Scouts
Wish You
Happy Holidays
with a video they made
of the group singing
holiday classics

December 18

after the service,
during refreshments
in the social hall

Headquarters Connections

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



Exquisite Manifestations of True Entrusting Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Recently, I was honored to participate in a temple anniversary celebrating the temple's 125 years of history and reaffirming its legacy. In my mind, this particular temple, founded in 1897 which makes it the third oldest temple in Hawaii, has two rich intertwining and noteworthy legacies.

First, the inspiring spiritual legacy of the temple, captured in the book "Dharma Treasures, Spiritual Insights from Hawaii's Shin Buddhist Pioneers" by Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, captures the spiritual journey and religious experience of some remarkable people of the nembutsu of this locale. Some have gained the attention of renowned scholars of Buddhism, such as the late D. T. Suzuki, and others while less known still provide us with valuable insights into Shin

Buddhism that may also help us in our own spiritual quest. Three examples include "Joyful brightness, having entrusted everything to Amida, I am saved just as I am!" by Jutarō Oshima; Ume Hirano's encouragement, "If you truly love your child, teach him/her well about the teaching of Buddha, attaining birth in the Buddha land of peace. That is the compassion of parents that forever remains;" and the words of Iwaichi Nakamura who said, "In the timeless process of birth-and-death, for the first time I was made to realize the Other Power of Amida Buddha. My understanding resulted from listening, but listening is nothing but a little scratch on a precious gem. I trusted my understanding instead of trusting Amida. Until now, I was satisfied with my understanding. But, my understanding does not save me; It is Amida who saves me."

Second, there is the wondrous physical manifestation of the first legacy which is the beautiful temple, as a Nembutsu Dojo, with its prized koa wood pews and unique Hawaiian Sandalwood image of "Amida who saves me," carved from Hawaiian Sandalwood harvested from the mountainous hills above the temple. However, did you know that there is an "older brother" image of the current Amida Buddha (which has returned home to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)? Apparently, there developed a crack as often happens with wood, and thus a second block of sandalwood was sent to Japan, and that Amida Buddha image has been the temple's Object of Reverence since 1933.

By now, I am sure that many of you have guessed that I am referring to Kona Hongwanji. I sincerely hope that this legacy of Nembutsu, not only at Kona Hongwanji but all of our temples in Hawaii, will not be forgotten and will manifest itself with the sound of Namo Amida Butsu being gratefully recited and carried forward by us, of the present Sangha, so that future generations will also be able to encounter the unparalleled and unconditional Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha as happened in the past.

Let us take to heart the words of our current Spiritual Leader, the 25th Gomonshu, His Eminence Kojun Ohtani's words to "Secure one's own entrusting heart to the Dharma, guiding others to the same path" and Shinran Shonin's words, "I praise Amida's wisdom and virtue, So that beings with mature conditions throughout the ten quarters may hear. Let those who have realized shinjin, constantly respond in gratitude to the Buddha's benevolence." To close, please join me to recite Namo Amida Butsu, The Buddha's Name That I Call in gratitude, in response to Namo Amida Butsu, The Buddha's Name That Calls Me to entrust. Namo Amida Butsu. Namo Amida Butsu. Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

This piece appears in the [October 2022](#) Headquarters Update.
HQ Connections is curated by Steve Lohse and Cindy Alm.

Radio Programs DECEMBER 2022

Japanese Language,
SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM

12/3.....Rev. Daido Baba
12/10....Rev. Mariko Nishiyama
12/17....Rev. Ryoso Toshima
12/24....Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
12/31....Rev. Shingo Furusawa

DECEMBER SPEAKERS

Please see page 2

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 resumed 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 OCTOBER 2022



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

8/29/2022	KAWAMOTO, Machiko (90)
10/2/2022	TERADA, Joanne Yooko (66)
10/6/2022	OGAWA, Brian Mitsuo (62)
10/7/2022	OMURA, Iris Leiko (61)
10/11/2022	TAKAKI, Ken (85)
10/15/2022	SHIMABUKU, Kazuo (83)
10/17/2022	MONKOSKI, Reiko (93)
10/23/2022	ICHIYAMA, Chikayo (99)
10/24/2022	FUJIWARA, Robert Shigemi (91)

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY NURSING HOME SERVICES (FOR THE RESIDENTS)

WE WELCOME HALE O MELE ANA!
SERVICE EVERY 2ND FRIDAY AT 10:30 AM

MALUHIA SERVICE EVERY 3RD WED AT 10:00 A.M.

**All other nursing Home Services
remain 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