



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

GOJI

Vol. 78 No. 10



NOVEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER

of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawai'i Betsuin
hawaiiibetsuin.org

2023 Slogan:

"Building Healthy
Sanghas: Sharing Joy
Together"

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
Ministerial Staff
Rev. Shingo Furusawa
Rev. Blayne
Nakasone Sakata
Rev. Charlene Kihara

"Bowing In Gratitude"

A Message from the Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha

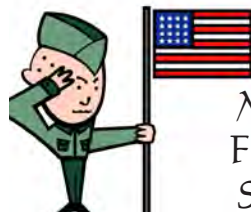


Members at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission were prepping that week for the upcoming Obon Festival on August 11th and 12th. It is ironic and poignant that we fretted a little about possible rain from Hurricane Dora. Then, on Tuesday the 8th the winds came... and the rest of the story is embedded in us forever, through personal experience, sharing of tales, and from the media. The fires in our beloved Lahaina town displaced about half of our 80 members. They are scattered over parts of Maui, the islands of Hawaii as well as the Mainland. We lost our Temple, Social Hall, Office, Minister's Residence and School Building. Weeks later we learned that one member, Matsu Osato, perished.

Even as we visibly or stoically weep over losses in lives, property, livelihood — one powerfully encouraging force is the overwhelming scope and depth of support we have received. This support has come from the innermost circles of family and ohana, friends, neighbors, from Lahaina Hongwanji members and relations. The support widened to the sangha of Maui Hongwanji temples, Honpa Hongwanji and statewide temples... and finally from the larger communities and agencies, local to world-wide.

continued on page 10

We Are Grateful
for Our Veterans!



Mahalo
For Your
Service!

Veterans Day is set aside as a time to remember all U.S. military veterans — past and present. It is celebrated every November 11th and has been a federal holiday since 1926.



Dharma Message: "Am I Right?" Rev. Shingo Furusawa

When looking at our community, society, and this world, countless fights, conflicts, and wars happen. Why do we have to fight each other? It is because of our judgmental self-centered mind. We always distinguish ourselves from others, tend to see everything with a self-centered view, and judge others selfishly. Unfortunately, we tend to be unaware of how self-centered we are, so we are often controlled by our judgmental self-centered mind unconsciously. If we are manipulated by it, each of us will say, "I am right! You are wrong!" Our relationships will be broken down, and our organization and community will decline. It is very difficult for us not to be controlled by the mind. What should we do?

Self-reflection is necessary not to be

overconfident in our abilities, and we need to ask ourselves, "Are my thoughts really right? Are my actions really right?" Shinran Shonin, the founder of Shin Buddhism, made a remarkable statement, "I know nothing at all of good or evil ("TANNISHO" or "A Record in Lament of Divergences"). When reading his works, we can know that Shinran Shonin was a brilliant man, full of intelligence.

However, through Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion, Shinran Shonin was aware that he was an imperfect person. He stated "I am not a perfect person, so my view is also imperfect. I can NEVER say that I am absolutely right."

Through listening to the Buddha's teachings, we also will be made aware that we all are imperfect, have shortcomings, and can make mistakes. You may feel uncomfortable if you are told that you are imperfect, but is there anyone who can say that they have

never made a mistake in their life? There are no such people, are there? Therefore, when arguing or fighting with others, we need to be calm and ask ourselves, "Am I right?"

In this way, it is very important for us to realize that everyone is imperfect.

"Shinshu Pledge II" States:

Revealing the Light of the Buddha and reflecting upon my imperfect self, I shall strive to live a life of gratitude.

Those who are illuminated by Amida Buddha's light will be able to be aware of their own imperfections, and they can live their lives to the fullest.

Because we are imperfect, we must compensate for each other's shortcomings and help and support each other to live. In Gassho.



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044.

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 Hawai'i Betsuin.

GOJI STAFF:

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

NOVEMBER 2023 Speakers Schedule

11/5

Eitaikyo & Birthday Sunday
8:00AM Rev. Murakami
9:30AM Rev. Murakami

11/12

Veteran's Day Service
8:00AM Rev. Hasebe
9:30AM Rev. Furusawa

11/19

Temple Clean up:
No Sunday Services

11/26

8:00AM Rev. Baba
9:30AM Rev. Nakasone Sakata

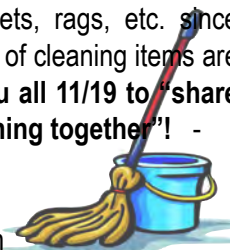
Temple Cleanup is Sunday, November 19

Hawaii Betsuin's annual temple cleanup returns Sunday, November 19 from 7:30 a.m. to approximately 10:30 a.m. This is a fun, all-sangha event in which various affiliated organizations and groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, BWA, the board, etc.) take on specific areas for cleanup, typically the same assignments from year to year. Afterwards, we all join for a well-earned, simple lunch in the Social Hall.

Please check in with your temple group for details. Your group representatives will coordinate with the Hawaii Betsuin Business Office.

Cleanup volunteers are asked to bring their own buckets, rags, etc. since temple supplies of cleaning items are limited. **See you all 11/19 to "share the joy of cleaning together"!** -

Submitted by
David Atcheson



Legacy Gift From Estate of Hazel and Akira Wada

At the start of the pandemic, the temple received an unexpected and generous legacy gift from the estate of Hazel and Akira Wada. Their names might not be familiar to temple members, and as is often the case with legacy gifts, the temple learned of the gift through a letter from a representative of the estate informing the temple of the gift.

The trustee of the estate was Hazel Wada's youngest sister, Amy Mitsuda.

Here is her letter:

May 21, 2020

Ms Stacy Bradshaw
Executive Director
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

Re: Hazel H Wada Trust

Dear Ms Bradshaw,

I'm writing this letter as sister and trustee of the Hazel H. Wada Trust, which recently, through the Bank of Hawaii, sent the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, a partial gift amounting to \$495,000.00. Hazel passed away on January 16, 2019, at the age of 94, and I had been appointed trustee because she and her husband, Akira Wada, who passed away in 2011, had no children. During their lifetime, the Wada's set up their trusts to gift 50% of their remaining assets to charitable organizations.

Honpa Honwanji Betsuin was given foremost recognition by my sister, Hazel Hokama Wada, because the ashes of her husband, Akira and our parents, Seiko and Toshiko Hokama, are placed at the *Nokotsu-do*. *With her passing, she has been placed next to her husband and close to the niche bearing our parents' ashes.*

Little did she realize at the time, how much her gift might end up being, but I do know that it was her intention to provide funds to ensure the long term maintenance of services and upkeep of the *Nokotsu-do*. Although she did not specify this in her Trust, I hope you and the Board of Trustees will use your best judgment in allocating a portion of her gift for this purpose and put the remainder into what can best benefit the Betsuin for the present and future.

For your information, Here's a quick background of the Wada and Hokama families.... Our parents, Seiko and Toshiko Hokama were immigrants from Okinawa, and came to live in Honolulu in the late '50's, bringing their (mostly) Japanese music business from Wailuku, Maui where they had established Hokama's Music from a small grocery/general store that got them started in the late '20s. My sister Hazel, the eldest daughter amongst 4 children, became a classroom teacher, taught in Wailuku, and since the mid-'60s, in Honolulu, for a total of 40 some years. Her husband, Akira, was a native of Hana, Maui, and spent many years as an accountant and later, worked in the grocery brokerage division of Theo H Davies. Like many striving Nisei of the post-WWII generation, they worked hard, made some good investments, lived modest lives, and prospered. All this, while spending many after-work hours, pitching in physically, and providing business advice to the expanding Hokama family business.

While theirs is not an unusual story of sons and daughters of Japanese immigrants, Hazel and Akira were always grateful for their long and productive lives, and were the pillars of the Hokama family, always there for father, mother, siblings and their children. Their concern and love of family is reflected in their generous allocation of 50% of their assets to all of their nieces and nephews. In the final chapter of their lives, it seems fitting that they remembered their Buddhist and cultural heritage by leaving a portion of their physical assets for the continued spiritual well being of the community that is represented by the mission of the Honpa Hawaii Betsuin.

I hope this helps to put "a face" on this contribution. We anticipate a final distribution of funds in June. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me, Amy Hokama Mitsuda, at [REDACTED], or by email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Amy Hokama Mitsuda

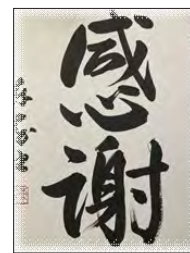
Amy Hokama Mitsuda

All funds were designated for upkeep and improvement of the temple's buildings and grounds. The Betsuin board has assured Mrs. Mitsuda that the Hazel and Akira Wada Memorial Endowment, which gives special attention to the Nokotsudo, will be implemented. The total amount of the gift was \$842,790.06. We are grateful to Hazel and Akira Wada for including the Hawaii Betsuin in their estate plans.

If you would like more information about including Hawaii Betsuin in your estate plan, please contact the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044.

Your family name and Buddhist concepts in Kanji

Makes a great holiday gift and family keepsake for younger generations. Standard custom artwork on 12x10" sheet is \$60. A scroll from Japan is an additional \$28.



Hiromi Peterson, Master Calligrapher and 2023 Living Treasure of Hawaii honoree, has generously offered her services as a fundraiser for Hawaii Betsuin.

For more information, please contact Jon Matsuoka at 808-536-7044 or jmatsuoka@hawaiiibetsuin.org

Fujiko Motobu

To which the little girl replies, “Do you really feel qualified to discuss global warming, universal health care, or the economy, when you don’t know s*#?” With that, she went back to reading her book. **More BWA News on Page 5**

BWA continued from page 4 Ministers Appreciation Day 2023 Wendie Yumori



Ministers Appreciation Day was celebrated across the U.S. and here at Hawaii Betsuin on Sunday, October 8. On this happy occasion, BWA President, Jo desMarets, invited Bishop's Office ministers and Hawaii Betsuin active and retired ministers to come to the front of the Hondo. BWA members, Charlyne Tom and Sanae Nakai, then presented heartfelt gifts of appreciation to Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Rev. Daido Baba, Rev. Sol Kalu, Rev. Charlene Kihara, Rimban Yuika Hasebe, Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata, and retired minister, Rev. Tatsuo Muneto.

Included in each gift was a handcrafted thank you card, a Long's gift card, a flower-shaped succulent contributed by Wendie Yumori, and a lovely fabric bag sewn by Arlene Matsubara which contained delicious treats from Gayle Hirohata-Goto.

BWA President, Jo desMarets offered this message to honor and thank our ministers:

"On behalf of the Hawaii Betsuin BWA and the Hawaii Betsuin Sangha, I would like to express our profound gratitude to you, our spiritual teachers, for guiding us on the Nembutsu path. Thank you for your compassionate care whenever we face challenges and struggle with life as it is, and mahalo nui for sharing the joy of Amida's light. Because of you, not only are we an open and affirming Hawaii Betsuin Sangha...we are a kind and gentle Hawaii Betsuin Ohana. Mahalo for all you do! Okagesama de."



Following the presentation, Dianne Ida encouraged Sangha members to contribute to the Ministerial Training Fund as a wonderful way to show our appreciation of our ministers. She noted that new minister, Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata (who delivered his first Dharma message on Oct. 8), has benefitted from the support provided by the Ministerial Training Fund.

Message from Your President Elect, Cindy Alm

As we elect the 2024-2025 board of directors, I look forward to working together with our temple leadership and applying my governance ex-



perience to this post-pandemic era, for the benefit of our temple. There is an urgency to addressing long-standing issues and future sustainability.

Our society has undergone significant changes, many at a relatively rapid pace. Among these are technological advancement, social and cultural norms, environmental awareness, demographic shifts, economic transformation, workforce changes, and political changes.

While challenging, these shifts can offer fresh opportunities to explore and engage with Buddhist teachings, for our temple and the broader community, so that our temple can continue to be a refuge and a beacon for all.

As we navigate a path forward, my emphasis will be on honoring the past as we implement a strategic plan for the future, leadership and governance guided by Buddhist values, and the temple's financial well-being and integrity. Everyone's positive support, commitment, contributions, and collaboration are welcome.

In gassho,
Cindy Alm

Message from Jon Matsuoka, Executive Director

In a piece written in 51 years ago by Richard S. Sasaki, President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission, he urged that religion (Buddhism) be taught in a way that people (Hawai'i-born) can understand, concepts are comprehensible and those who come to temple live by the Dharma and not criticize, we recruit younger people and new programs are offered. These sentiments were an obvious expression of concern for the then state of affairs and where the Sangha was heading. At the end of his essay, Mr. Sasaki stated that we must go beyond verbal af-

firmation to change – that real action must be taken. Over a half a century has passed since his essay and the issues he referenced not only persist, they have grown worse.

Last year we embarked on creating a new Strategic Plan for Hawai'i Betsuin. The 3 main themes were: 1) diversify Betsuin's community, 2) diversify and grow Betsuin's income, 3) increase the relevance of Betsuin and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. A long-time board member recently told me that

the new Strategic Plan was nothing new. That it looked a lot like the other plans he'd been a part of developing. Having combed through previous plans I tended to agree. Not knowing if his comment was intended to discourage or inspire, it nonetheless begged the questions: Were past plans ever put into operation? What got in the way of implementation? Why haven't things changed?



Efforts to operationalize planning themes has been a perplexing exercise in institutional resistance. As Mr. Sasaki pointed out, affirmation must be accompanied by innovative action. Despite consciously knowing we must change to survive the temple is often indisposed to trying something different. Or, as I recently heard someone say, we move at church speed. A concern I've expressed multiple times is that time is running out. With Board elections around the corner, I encourage voting members to support those who support the implementation of the Strategic Plan. It is one of the few things the Board worked on collectively to create and is really our best hope for sustainability.

2023 Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lectures:

"The Lost Women Of Buddhism"

Dexter Mar



Prof. Vanessa Sasson

On October 6th, this 24th annual program was held at Hawaii Betsuin with Prof. Vanessa Sasson sharing her novels, "Yasodhara and the Buddha" and "The Gathering" plus "behind-the-scenes" perspectives on creating novels based on academic research. Our long-time friend & respondent, Dr. George Tanabe led our discussion. Vanessa captivated the in-person and online audiences by connecting actual sutras (ancient Buddhist writings) with how she developed her fictionalized accounts. Most revealing was the revelation of the primal role of women in the development of Buddhism in which

the male dominated narratives largely ignored their pivotal influence. Does anyone know of Prince Siddhartha Gautama's step-mother, Queen Mahapajapati? To the surprise and delight of the audience, author Sasson suggests that instead of a "dead-beat father" story in which Siddhartha abandons his wife and newborn son, the story is actually a great love story. You can view the video recording on the Hawaii Betsuin YouTube channel.

Vanessa was inspired to an academic career in religion by a vacation visit to Nepal that turned into yearlong stay and lifelong affection for Himalayan history & culture. This was Prof. Sasson's first visit to Hawaii and we hope it was as inspiring as her first visit to Nepal.

Thank you to the following people for their continuing support of this program:

The late Dr. Al Bloom, founder
Dorothy Nell Bloom, co-founder
Faye Mar, co-convenor
Dr. George Tanabe, respondent
Rimban Yuika Hasebe
Betsuin Executive Director, Jon Matsuoka
Dave Atcheson

Members Take Note!

Elect Your Temple Board on 11/26/23
Members, please participate in the election on Sunday, November 26 following temple service to elect the officers and directors to serve on the temple board from January 2024 to January 2026. We plan to allow voting in person and online. See page 10 for more information!



Honolulu Hongwanji Marches in the 2023 Pride Parade

On Saturday, October 21, Honolulu Hongwanji marched in the 2023 Pride Parade. Here is a photo of our starting group, courtesy of JoAnn Yosemite, and here is a sample of comments following the Parade.



Dave Atcheson, "I sure enjoyed participating with you all . . . thanks for the district-wide collaboration and community! Hongwanji showed up."

Dennis Toshiro, "Thanks David and JoAnn for sharing your photos (see Pride 2023). It was great getting together as a joint district effort."

Jon Matsuoka, "It's so important to show our support for the LGBTQ+ community."

Steve Lohse, "Thank you all who got their parade shoes on yesterday and all who support them! Yesterday, we walked that talk to Share the Joy. . . ."

Wayne Yoshioka, "Thank you to all who helped organize, prepare and participate in this event. It was a fun way to get our message of inclusiveness out there."

Cindy Alm, "The signs look great! Looking forward to participating next year."



Betsuin Participates In UH Coming Out Day



On October 11, the Betsuin participated in National Coming Out Day at the University of Hawaii to let the LGBTQ community know that we are an open and affirming sangha, welcoming everyone as you are and who you are. National Coming Out Day is an annual LGBT awareness day observed on October 11 to support anyone "coming out of the closet." First celebrated in the United States in 1988, the initial idea was grounded in the feminist and gay liberation spirit of the personal being political, and the emphasis on the most basic form of activism being coming out to family, friends, and colleagues, and living life as an openly lesbian or gay person. The founders believed that homophobia thrives in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance and that once people know that they have loved ones who are lesbian or gay, they are far less likely to maintain homophobic or oppressive views. (NCOD information from Wikipedia).

“Bowing In Gratitude” continued from page 1

We bow in gratitude to the following:

- Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Honpa Hongwanji Headquarters staff, Social Concerns Committee and Maui Wildfire Emergency Response Adhoc Committee for setting up the Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund.
- Kahului, Wailuku, Lanai and Makawao Hongwanji Temples for offering familiar and comfortable places for Lahaina members to gather, and for invitations to attend their services, as well as donations of gift cards.
- Rev. Kerry Kiyohara and Rev. Shinkai Murakami, who offered their presence at weekly gatherings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Wailuku and Kahului Hongwanji Temples.
- Rev. Ai Hironaka, who has been a voice for Lahaina Hongwanji and its sangha... and, by common experience, for others displaced by the disaster.
- Our temple members, for being LAHAINA HONGWANJI STRONG and

helping each other through group texting (cell phones rule!) and heart to heart hanashi.

- Island community groups, foundations and many organizations from afar who graciously bestowed monetary donations for displaced persons — temple members and others.
- Last but not least, gratitude for: “ground zero” firemen, policemen, National Guardsmen, Red Cross, FEMA, and all others who served and are still serving.

To close on a “feel good” note — one post-fires photo online shows a portion of Lahaina Hongwanji that appears to have resisted the flames. It is a scene with a still relatively green lawn, which was so diligently watered and cared for by our member. On the lawn stands the red yagura... dutifully repainted late summer for Obon. And the columbarium/nokotsudo still stands upright and seemingly intact.

At roadside is the temple ‘kiosk’, and visible inside the glass protection is the name, LAHAINA HONGWANJI, as well as a poster advertising OBON on August 11 & 12, 2023.

We are still awaiting the day we will be allowed back at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission to assess what our future will be. In the meantime, we have a new mailing address since our Post Office was damaged in the fire. Our new mailing address is:

Lahaina Hongwanji Mission
PO Box 12911
Lahaina, HI 96761

Our phone number remains as 808-661-6641 but is forwarded to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

In Gratitude,
LAHAINA HONGWANJI SANGHA

Board Election to Be Held Sunday, November 26 After the Service, Online Option Available

In November of odd-numbered years, Hawaii Betsuin’s membership elects officers and board members to two-year terms. The board chose Sunday, November 26 following the Family Service as the date and time for this year’s election (beginning about 10:30 a.m.).

The last election, held during the throes of COVID, was conducted as a mail-in election. This year we return to an in-person election, but with a “hybrid” twist: we intend to allow members participate via Zoom as well as in the Hondo. Members attending the service can stay in the hondo or in the Zoom meeting for the election. To increase voter access, we plan to keep the vot-

ing window open for a defined period of time after the election meeting. The window for submitting a paper or online ballot will likely remain open through Monday, November 27. Please note that because our bylaws allow for nominations from the floor for officer positions, the ballot cannot be considered final until the election meeting. We have a quorum requirement and there are bound to be some contested positions, so members, please participate!

To view an up-to-date slate of director and officer candidates, as well as additional information about the

election meeting, please visit this link in your web browser:

hhhb.link/election23

You may also view the information at the business office.

If you will (or even might) vote online, please ensure we have a unique email address for each member/voter. You will find a form to submit your email address at hhhb.link/election23. Questions? Contact Steve Lohse, Board Secretary, at lohse@hawaii.edu or through the office.

– Submitted by David Atcheson and Steve Lohse

Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

Our first day of Dharma School was on Sunday, September 24. It was also the HHMH Maui Wildfires Memorial Service. We invited the Oahu Dharma Schools to join us for an island-wide activity. We had several Mililani Hongwanji families and Dharma School leaders join us that day. To show our compassion and support for the Lahaina Hongwanji minister, Reverend Ai Hironaka and his family, we cut out paper hearts and wrote messages to show how much we care and send our love. We strung the hearts together to make a chain of hearts and made sure that Reverend Ai received our chain before he left Oahu to return to Maui. It was such a wonderful time to meet other Dharma School students and families from across the island. We hope to have more joint activities in the near future.

Starting in October, our Dharma School service was combined together with the 10 am English-Language Adult service with a different start time of 9:30 am in the main temple. On Sunday, October 1, we focused on temple

etiquette – bowing when entering and exiting the temple and the proper way to offer incense. We also talked about the various aspects of the service and the altar – ringing of the kansho, flowers and candles at the altar, incense burner and the lotus flower symbol.

We had a Saturday activity, “Sushi Your Way” on Saturday, October 7. Our activity started with a service in the Social Hall, with Reverend Furusawa sharing a Dharma Message. He compared the nori that is the main ingredient of sushi, wrapped around the rice, to the Buddha who always surrounds us with love and compassion. Rimban Hasebe led everyone in ice-breaker games – Jan Ken Train and Animal Jan Ken. What fun the

families had, competing in Jan Ken Po and getting to know each other. We had a wonderful spread of food with a variety of sushi fillings: poke, tuna, imitation crab, cucumber, takuan, radish sprouts, mayo spread, with teri chicken, lumpia, hot dogs, spam and somen salad. The rest of the night was filled with board games and ball/bean bag throwing activities – corn hole and tossing games. Can’t wait until our next Saturday night activity.

We encouraged our Dharma School ohana to support and participate in the 5th Virtual State Dharma School Gathering on Sunday, October 15, featuring Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani as the guest speaker.



We welcome all to join us as we have more Sunday morning and Saturday evening Dharma School activities throughout the coming year.

Radio Programs
KZOO (1210 AM)
Japanese Language,
SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM
NOVEMBER 2023

04....Rev. Shinkai Murakami
11....Rev. Daido Baba
18....Rev. Tomo Hojo
25....Rev. Shingo Furusawa

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.

Services are open to in-person attendees and a Zoom option continues to be available for the 9:30 a.m. English-language Family Services. The 8 a.m. Japanese language services continue in person only.

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

In Memoriam



SEPTEMBER 2023

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 2030

8/17/2023 YANAGIDA, Fumiko (86)

SEPTEMBER 2023

9/4/2023 FUJITANI, Mary Okada (94)

9/7/2023 ISHII, Howard Toshio (78)

9/11/2023 IKEBE, Kazuko Morita (96)

9/13/2023 SAHARA, Lloyd Tadao (67)

9/28/2023 KAWAMURA, Robert Tatsuo (83)

Schedule of Monthly Nursing Home Services

Leahi Hospital

Service every 2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Hale O Meleana

Service Every 2nd Friday at 10:30 A.M.

Hale Ho Aloha

Service Every 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 A.M.

Maluhia Hospital

Service Every 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 A.M.

2023 Memorial Service Schedule

2023 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2022: 1st year

2011: 13th year

1991: 33th year

2021: 3rd year

2007: 17th year

1974: 50th year

2017: 7th year

1999: 25th year

1924: 100th year

The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of unhindered 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