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GOJI

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JANUARY 2018
NEWSLETTER
of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
www.hawaiibetsuin.org

2018 Slogan: Embrace Change: Harmony (Accept Differences)

> BETSUIN MINISTERS

Chief Minister Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff Rev. Yuika Hasebe Rev. Arthur Kaufmann Rev. Joshin Kamuro Rev. Sol Kalu

New Year's Message OHTANI Kojun, Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

New Year's Greeting

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you.

Last September, I had the opportunity to visit the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as Monshu for the first time. It was wonderful to have met with so many people at each temple, and I would like to extend my appreciation for everyone's warm hospitality.



At Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan, from October 1, 2016 until this past May

31, the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition was conducted with attendance of about one hundred fifty thousand people from throughout Japan and our overseas sanghas. Since the days of our founder Shinran Shonin, for nearly 800 years, the Jodo Shinshu teaching has been cherished and carefully handed down to us today by our predecessors. Reflecting on this, I am truly grateful to have been able to recite the Nembutsu together with many of you who took part in the services whether it be in person or through the internet.

Being enabled to hear the working of Amida Buddha's voice calling to us, we become aware of our true self, in which we have the difficulty of accepting things just as they are, and being caught up in our own selfish mindset. That is why it becomes all the more important that we continue to listen to the teaching of Amida. As we appreciate the Buddha's great wisdom and compassion, we are naturally guided to care for and aspire to live together with one another.

In this New Year, let us continue to listen to the teaching while following the Nembutsu path together with everyone.

January 1, 2018

OHTANI Kojun Monshu Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

President's Message for 2018:



"Embrace Change: Harmony" Accept Differences

Our theme for 2018 calls us to walk the path of change in harmony by accepting differences. It is a particularly difficult time for us to walk this path while the world seems to be dissolving into divisive fragments. As we are swept by world events that seek to divide us one from the other, many feel that the development and flow of events are no longer in our control. We are simply bystanders watching human society fracture and its pieces fall away from each other. These sweeping events make

us feel that our personal efforts to accept differences and live in harmony are inconsequential. How can a small personal act on my part change the course of world events? How can I make a difference?

It would be unfortunate if a world full of caring people are overtaken by doubt that one person can actually make a difference. Such doubt about the value of our personal actions surely dooms all of us to be blown about as leaves are scattered before gusts of wind.

The teachings tell us of the preciousness of life, each person's life, and the preciousness of a single act of kindness that emanates from that life. If Namo Amida Butsu is real and true then actions that naturally evolve from Namo Amida Butsu are real and true.

As we meet the tasks and events that we set for ourselves, let us take them on in the spirit of the Nembutsu. It is through the love and presence of Amida in our lives that we have these precious opportunities to bring joy into this world, into the lives of others and into our lives. So as each day unfolds in 2018, let us reflect on the opportunities that await us and review the tasks and events we have planned. With hands in gassho, let the sound of Namo Amida Butsu flow from our lips with gratitude that on this day, embraced by the love of Amida, we have the chance to meet those with different thoughts and feelings from us, to accept them as fellow travelers, to wish that no difficulties come to them, and that they live in peace and harmony. Let us remember the small actions we take to create harmony in the world in 2018. And let these small actions collectively speak of our sincere desire for peace.

Namo Amida Butsu Pieper J. Toyama, President

The Hawaii Betsuin Staff and Ministers Wish You A Joyous New Year!

My Message is that the Buddha says, "The mind is everything, what you think you become." so I'd like to say "Let's cultivate and nuture the mind of compassion."

Rev. Hagio

Happy New Year!!! Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all for your support and help during 2017, and I ask for your continuous support in 2018. The brand new year is waiting ahead of us. Embraced by Amida Buddha's Compassion, we should treasure each day and share in the joy of the Nembutsu.

Rev. Hasebe



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 (execdir@hawaiibetsuin. org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (536-0919). Address submissions to the *GOJ1*. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

GOJI STAFF:

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

On behalf of myself, and my wife Judith, I would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for this Holiday Season and the coming New Year to you all. We thank you for your support and good wishes throughout this past year.

As Sangha members, we have all contributed to the preservation of the Three Treasures, the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, as well as our temple, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year.

Through the efforts of the Sangha much has been accomplished and there will doubtless be new challenges on the horizon which will bring change. Although this might take us out of our comfort zone, I am reminded that the Chinese characters for change also can be translated as opportunity. We humble ask for your continued support of the Three Treasures of the truth and our temple. Happy Holidays and again, thank you all.

Namoamidabutsu. Shaku Arthur J. Kaufmann and Mrs. Judith Holland

My family and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the kind support we received throughout 2017, and extend to all of you our New Year greetings. At the beginning of this year, let us introduce a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist saying, which we saw on a bulletin board in a temple in Japan. "It is a pleasure for us to have a place to return to, and it is reassuring for us to have a place where we can meet again." We have a spiritual home which is the Pure Land where Amida Buddha and our loved ones who have passed away dwell, therefore we can enjoy peace of mind in our daily lives. Let us be comforted by knowing we have our spiritual home where we can go to and meet again. Namo Amida Butsu. **Joshin, Minako & Yuma Kamuro**

Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu - Happy New Year 2018!

I would like to express my sincerest and profoundest appreciation to all the members, ministers and staff of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Hawaii Betsuin for allowing me to rejoin the Mission as an Associate Minister in March of 2017 after being away for a long time. Thanks to the efforts of everybody, I am adjusting well and still feeling the warm welcome afforded to me upon my return. May we continue to walk the Nembutsu Path, ever mindful of Amida Buddha's Great Compassion and expressing our gratitude through the recitation of the Buddha's Name, Namo Amida Butsu!

Rev. Sol Kalu



Betsuin BWA News and Events

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU. 2018 is a special year for all of us at Hawaii Betsuin because we are celebrating our 100th year anniversary since the temple was built on Pali Highway in 1918. Our forefathers were very perceptive and worked hard to build a beautiful temple for us. There will be many activities which you will be asked to participate in , and when you do, you too will leave a legacy for the future generation. You are special people who can participate in the celebration of the centennial celebration of Hawaii Betsuin. Now, don't you wish you can live for another hundred years?

LIVING A LONG LIFE. Most of us will not be able to live for a hundred years, but a Swedish study says that owning a dog is connected to a reduced risk for cardiovascular disease and death. Researchers used data on 3.4 million Swedes, ages 40 to 80. All dogs are registered with an ear tattoo or chip. Owning a dog was associated with a 20% lower risk of all cause of death and 23 % lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease. The effect was stronger with certain breeds, especially pointers and retrievers. Try to picture the owner of a Labrador retriever and then one with a Chihuahua. Guess what owner will live longer.

BWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEET-ING #1 FOR YEAR 2018. The first of four general membership meetings will be held right after the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, January 14, beginning at 11:00 in the main Hondo. We hope many of you will be able to attend. Installation of officers will take place. The officers will be serving the second of two year service, led by President Wendie Yumori. They worked very hard in year 2017, and they will undoubtedly work equally hard this year in 2018 with the Betsuin centennial celebration as well as preparation for the world BWA

convention to be held in September at Ala Moana hotel. The World convention will be held in San Francisco in 2019. The last world convention was held in Canada in 2015.

CARE OF FEET WORKSHOP HELD ON DECEMBER 3 Did you know that your ten toes all have individual connections to some part of your body, such as the smallest toe on your right foot is connected to the heart on the left side. The toes on the left foot affect the different parts in your right side of the body. Exercising our toes and feet daily, in the morning as soon as you get up and in the evening, is essential in keeping ourselves pain free and healthy. 10 toed socks are good footwear. Wearing good, sturdy shoes is also essential, and that is shoes with strings to tie on the top of the feet is good. Soft shoes and slippers are not good nor safe in walking. Walking about 10,000 steps per day will keep one healthy. As we get older we tend to sit too much. It is important to walk daily and walk with good shoes. The instructor for the workshop came from Tokyo. He mentioned that the shoes manufactured in Japan are not very good. Those made in America are very worthy and well made.

AND NOW FOR SOME HUMOR; DOCTORS NEVER LAUGH: Bob went to the doctor with a problem and asked the doctor not to laugh. The doctor replied "Of course I won't laugh. I'm a professional. In over 20 years I've never laughed at a patient."

"Okay then" Bob said, and proceeded to drop his trousers, revealing the tiniest wee wee the doctor had ever seen. It couldn't have been bigger than the size of a AAA battery.

Unable to control himself, the doctor started giggling, then fell laughing to

Fujiko Motobu

the floor. Ten minutes later he was able to struggle to the feet and regain his composure. "I'm so sorry": said the doctor. "I really am. I don't know what came over me. On my honor as a doctor and a gentleman, I promise it won't happen again. Now, what seems to be the problem?" "It's swollen" Bob replied.

GREAT RECIPE.....TRY IT. Sharon Yokoyama donated a cake for refreshment, and it was so delicious and unusual that I asked her for the recipe to be shared with all of you. It is from Hawaii's Best Local Dessert by Jean Watanabe Hee. Sharon's sister-in-law, Amy got this recipe for her mother some 30 years ago and it is still her favorite dessert. You should all try it.

PEACH BAVARIAN
1 large lemon chiffon cake (vanilla or orange)
2 packages Knox' unflavored gelatin
¼ cup water
1 can peaches, sliced (29 oz), cut into small pieces
¾ cup sugar
1 package lemon Jell-o (3 oz)
2 pints whipping cream (2 16 oz) cool whip (8-oz) optional

Cut chiffon cake into 1 inch squares and fill a 9X13 inch pan with half of the amount. Set aside. Mix gelatin with water; set aside. Place peaches (syrup included) and sugar into saucepan and bring to a boil. Add lemon Jello and the gelatin mixture and stir until dissolved. Remove and chill in refrigerator until mixture is beginning to set slightly.

In a large bowl, beat whipping cream until thick and holds peaks. Fold the chilled peach mixture into it. Pour half of the mixture all over cake pieces, working it in with a fork. Put another layer of cake pieces and then the remaining peach mixture. Top with cool whip. Refrigerate.

Betsuin Bwa Needs Your Donations For The Rummage Sale!

The Betsuin BWA members send a heartfelt mahalo to all of our members and friends who have, in past years, generously donated countless items for the Rummage Sale of Hawaii Betsuin's Taste of Hongwanji Spring Bazaar. Although our desire to assist the Betsuin with its fundraising is as strong as ever, because we ladies are getting a little older and are moving a little more slowly, we need to ask for more assistance with set-up, sorting, and pricing.

For the Rummage Sale, we would be most grateful for donations of items in good saleable condition, especially in the following categories:

All Clothing: Men's, Women's, and Children's

Accessories: scarves, belts, shoes, purses, jewelry, etc.

Linens: bed linens, table linens, curtains, etc.

Housewares: dishes, bowls, glassware, stove cookware, microwaveable cookware, serving containers, storage containers, etc.

Electronics: kitchen and home appliances, phones, calculators, etc., in working condition

Sporting Goods: golf clubs, balls, bags, fishing rods, tennis racquets,

small coolers, lanterns, etc.

Fabric & Craft: fabric yardage, yarn, beads, baskets, etc.
Materials

In addition, many patrons come to the Betsuin in search of Asian items, either in the Rummage Sale Treasures section or at the Bontique in June so we would love to receive the following:

Japanese clothing: adult and children's kimonos, yukatas, happi coats and accessories, etc.

Asian art: scrolls, woodblock prints, paintings, prints, etc.
Asian collectibles: dolls, display pieces, lacquerware, etc

Asian ceramics: dishes, bowls, tea sets, etc. Asian objects: trays, fans, coin purses, decorative knick-knacks, etc.; Ikebana: vases, containers, kenzans (frogs), clippers

Again, we wish to thank you for your wonderful support for so many years – you have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Rummage Sale and Bontique sales! Please bring your donations to the Betsuin Office.

HANDBELLS

On a table draped in white carefully placed handbells wait like the audience in the Buddhist social hall gathered on Christmas Eve morning, surprised by a concert when many only expected conversations they've had for years in this oasis of traditions from Japan brought to Hawaii and kept safe by ministers who look after older congregants passing memories to each other and to children whose parents wondered why this performance was not yet underway. But then she came: Noriko Ishii, her long black hair as bold in flight as the bells she grasped, glancing now and then at her hands, the bells shaking in resonant chords as we held our breath, at first startled and then inspired, wanting more sound to penetrate a lazy morning before Christmas that Noriko changed. Now jarred and hopeful, the crescendo reached, we left and waited that evening to hear echoes of ringing like Noriko chasing after bells and not letting go.



By Rüdiger Rückmann Written on 26 December 2017 REMINDER! English Services from the Betsuin are on KZOO radio (1210 am on the dial)



Sundays at 10:00 AM

Betsuin BWA News and Events continued from page 3

THIS STORY APPEARED IN THE KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE NEWSLETTER "ONENESS"; November 2017 issue.

Although it appeared in the Kauai newsletter, many of you here in Honolulu do not get to read the newsletter from other temples, so I thought sharing it would be enjoyable reading for you. It is entitled I LOVE YOU FOREVER.

Once upon a time in India, there was a rich and powerful man who had four wives. He was supposed to love all four wives equally, but he loved his first wife more. In fact, he loved the first wife so much that he smothered her. He never let her go anywhere without him. He wanted to be with her all the time. When she was hungry, he ordered all kinds of delicacies to satisfy her cravings. When she was hot, he ordered the servants to fan her. When she was cold, he bought her thick, expensive gowns to keep her warm.

The man loved his second wife very much, too. Even he fought with people to win her. He didn't love her as much

as the first wife, but he still had special feelings for her. He also loved the third wife. She was the person with whom he could share stories and jokes in daily life. As for his fourth wife, the man didn't love her at all. The fourth wife always worked hard and followed him, but the man never even noticed her. Eventually, He even forgot he had a fourth wife.

One day, he had to go to a far-away place. He asked his lovely first wife to go with him, but she answered, "I'm sorry, I cannot go with you. I have always been with you," she continued. "You have given me a luxurious life, and I am deeply grateful, but my life and home are here. I don't know what kind of hardships I might endure in some new place. I cannot lose everything by following you. I'm sorry."

He was disappointed and went to ask his second wife. "Let's go to the new world together." He proposed, but her answer was he same as the first wife. "You were the one who wanted me, and pursued me, and brought me here. It was not me." He was shocked to hear such words, and in greater disappointment, went to the third wife's palace. He was hoping that his third wife would agree to travel with him. She was shocked to hear he was leaving for somewhere very far. "I will miss you very much. I don't want you to go, but if you have already decided to go, then I will walk with you up to the border of our kingdom." All his invitations were turned down. Rejected by his three beloved wives, he felt utterly alone and his heart was broken.

The man started walking back to his palace, and suddenly remembered that he had one more wife. He never loved her or cared about her. He realized that he only showed her displeasure and treated her like a slave. It didn't matter, he thought. He desperately needed a companion for the long journey so he invited her to join him. She gladly accepted to go with him, saying, "My dear husband, I will go with you. Whatever happens, I am with you forever. I cannot be separated from you."

As you might have guessed, the destination of the man in this story was the other world; death. In this parable, the first wife was a symbol of the man's body. While he was young, the man enjoyed feeding his bodily desires, but when his body expires, it cannot enter the world of death. The second wife was the symbol of wealth. No matter how much fortune he built, he couldn't carry his fortune to the next world. The third wife was his children. He loved them and they loved him but in death, he had to leave them in this world and say farewell. The fourth wife was his true heart. We tend to forget things we cannot see. The Buddha said, "Every man and woman has four wives or husbands." What do you think about it? NAMO AMIDA BUTSU ...Samyukuta Nikaya

Join The Bwa: The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade!

January 15, 2018

March from Magic Island to Kapiolani Park (2 miles)

Meet at 7:30 am, by the Restrooms near Ala Moana Beach Park

Wear your BWA shirt, temple shirt, or organization shirt

Please bring your own water – we're going green!

We will distribute cranes; if you have any, please bring them!

Let's be a huge presence this year.

The Jr. YBA will join us!!

Temple members, Dharma school students and parents, friends... Everyone Welcomed!!

"Run for Peace" Team Raises Funds for PBA and Betsuin

Seven members of the Pacific Buddhist Academy and Hawaii Betsuin ohanas "ran for peace"

- David Atcheson



in the Honolulu Marathon, raising money for both organizations. Everyone finished the full 26.2 miles! The team raised about \$3200 in total. PBA teacher and Dharma School parent Benjamin Bruch and board member David Atcheson had designated that 50% of their pledges would go to Hawaii Betsuin in honor of the building's centennial, raising about \$1200 for the temple. Thanks to all who pledged!

If you are unable to come to the temple and would like to have a minister visit you in your home, please call

Rev. Yuika Hasebe at 536-7044



to request a home visit.

We miss you and do not want to lose contact with you!

From the Green Team



"Going Green" at Betsuin in '18!

The Hawaii Betsuin Green Team encourages all temple members to help advance the Hawaii-wide Green Hongwanji Initiative at our temple. Here are just a few things you can do:

- Bring your own reusable cup for coffee or tea. Need a mug? Check with BWA about a free surplus mug from Bazaar.
- If you already bring your own mug, add a lightweight snack plate and chop sticks to your kit. Bamboo utensils and a cloth napkin are nice additions too.
- Are you organizing an event?
 Try to go foam and plastic free.
 Containerland at 666 Mapunapuna St. has a great selection of compostable products at good prices and reasonable quantities.
- Use the Green Team as your resource for Mottainai bags (purchase while supplies last), consulting on compostables, possible bulk orders for bamboo utensils or other reusables, etc. Reach the Green Team via the office, speaking with Dave A. after service, or by emailing greenteaminfo@ hawaiibetsuin.org.

As we phase out disposable foam and plastic products at Betsuin, we help protect the ocean and can be an example in our community. One Green Hongwanji possibility is helping pioneer an "Ocean Friendly Churches and Temples" program based on Surf Rider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Restaurants program. Kudos to Hongwanji Mission School for showing leadership in switching over most of their food service items to compostables!

Do compostable cups, utensils, etc. really get composted? The answer is mostly no. We don't have a industrial composting system on Oahu. Nevertheless, compared to plastic and foam, compostable products are made from renewable resources, compact nicely in the trash, and are not as harmful if they end up in the ocean. Compostables do of course take energy and resources to manufacture and ship, so reusables are still the first choice when can.

- David Atcheson



Betsuin Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

Artwork, Music And Merriment: Dharma School Focal Points During The Past Month.



Dharma Message by 4th-5th Grade Class

Jovie Yoshioka and her Dharma School Class gave a wonderful Dharma Message on Sunday, November 26. They had beautiful artwork of the Gumyocho, the two-headed bird, and shared the meaning and symbolism of the Gumyocho but telling its story. It lives in the Pure Land and expresses coexistence, co-prosperity, and peace. The Gumyocho bird symbolizes inconceivable light and the Buddha's wisdom. Yuma Kamuro and Dr. Benjamin Bruch also helped with the presentation.

Reverend Hasebe's Dharma Talk on "The Life of Buddha"

We were all treated to the beautiful artwork of Reverend Yuika Hasebe on Sunday, December 10, when she shared her very informative Dharma Message about "The Life of Buddha." Her talk was during the Dharma School Bodhi Day Service, so it was very timely, especially to hear the details of how Siddhartha became enlightened. There were beautiful drawings to depict the Buddha's life, which captured everyone's attention, especially the younger students.





Sounds of Disney and the Holidays by the Ukulele Group filled the Social Hall

Our ukulele group and Dharma School students, under the direction of Cameron Kubota, enjoyed a session of singing after the service on Sunday, December 10. While Cameron and Caden Matsumoto strummed the music, the group enjoyed singing songs from Disney's Moana and favorite Christmas carols such as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and the 12 Days of Christmas. What a treat for all to hear these melodies fill the air while enjoying our refreshments.

Dharma School students and parents, along with the rest of the Sangha were treated to a festive and fun-filled holiday celebration on Sunday, December 17. Stay tuned to the February Goji for all the details and photos from this wonderful event!

For More Information about the Betsuin Dharma School Program, please call the Betsuin office at 536-7046.



Hongwanji Radio Programs JANUARY 2018 KZOO 1210 AM

Japanese Language Saturday at 7:30 AM

- 6 Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani & Bishop Eric Matsumoto
- 13 Rev. Shinkai Murakami
- 20 Rev. Shigenori Makino
- 27 Rev. Mariko Nishiyama

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8:00 AM

- 07 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 14 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 21 Ho`onko Service Rev. Shigenori Makino
- 28 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Adult English Services 10:00 AM

- 07 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 14 Rev. Sol Kalu
- 21 Ho`onko Family Service 9:30 am Rev. Shigenori Makino
- 28 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

Nicchu Service 1pm

- 07 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
- 14 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 21 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
- 28 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Dharma School Service 9 am

- 07 Rev. Sol Kalu
- 14 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
- 21 Ho`onko Family Service 9:30 am Rev. Shigenori Makino
- 28 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

In Memoriam



NOVEMBER 2017

The Hawai'i Betsuin extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

- 5 KAWAGUCHI, Irene Hatsue (73)
- 14 MASUMOTO, Noriyoshi (93)
- 15 YONESHIGE, Robert Hiroshi (60)
- 16 SATO, Koichi (94)
- 17 KAWASAKI, Masayo "Masae" Watanabe (103)
- 20 LUKE, Herbert Sun Nam (84)
- 21 OBA, Ronald Masami (94)

2018 Memorial Service Schedule

2018 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

 2017 – 1 year
 2007 – 13 year
 1986 – 33 year

 2016 – 3 year
 2002 – 17 year
 1969 – 50 year

 2012 – 7 year
 1994 – 25 year
 1919 – 100 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

2018 BWA (Beautiful, Wonderful, Amazing Ladies) Tea Party



You are warmly invited to a tea party sponsored by the BWA Ohana

Thursday, February 8, 2018

From 4:00 to 5:30 (prior to the Giseikai Rap Session)

Hawaii Betsuin BWA Dining Room

Come and talk story with other BWA members from throughout the state!

Light refreshments will be served.

Contact Lois Toyama (808-383-4255) for more information