



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

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NEWSLETTER
of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
www.hawaiiibetsuin.org

Five Year Theme:
"Embrace Change"

2015 Slogan:
"Awareness:"
(Seek Opportunities)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Tatsuo Muneto
Asst. Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Betsuin's Spring O-Higan Service Scheduled for March 15, 2015 at 9:30AM

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will be observing its spring O-Higan service on March 15, 2015. In English we refer to the onset of Spring and Fall with the term "equinox." On equinox day, the length of day and night are equal. In Japan, the weather at that time is mild and calm. People visit their family gravesite and pay respect to their ancestors. However, O-Higan is not only a time to visit the grave, but more importantly, it is a time to reflect on ourselves and learn Buddhism in calm weather. Here in Hawaii, we are always able to enjoy mild and beautiful weather, but we, too, must not forget about Amida Buddha's compassion and wisdom due to our busy daily life. On March 15th let us take this wonderful opportunity of spring O-Higan, to reflect on Buddha's teachings one more time with sincere mind and heart.

This year's speaker is retired minister and our former Bishop, Rev. Thomas Ryojun Okano. Rev. Okano was born in 1937 in Pearl City, Hawaii. He got his ordination, Tokudo in 1952 and Kyoshi in 1961. He graduated from University of Hawaii and then entered Ryukoku University, for his Master's degree in Shin Buddhism. Then, he completed a Doctor's course in 1967 and returned to



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Thank You!! Rimban Tatsuo Muneto for Fifty Years of Service!

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii acknowledged Rimban Tatsuo Ken Muneto for his 50 years of active ministry (1965-2015) in Hawaii at the 103rd Legislative Assembly. Rev. Tatsuo Ken Muneto received Tokudo ordination (1962) and Kyoshi ordination (1963). Rimban Muneto is originally from Hiroshima, Japan and became a naturalized American citizen in 2007. Rev. Muneto was assigned at the following positions: Assistant Director, HHMH Department of Sunday School; Director, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin English Department; Associate Minister, HH Hilo Betsuin; Kona Hongwanji; Lihue Hongwanji; Fuku-Rimban, HH Hawaii Betsuin; Moiliili Hongwanji; Rimban, HH Hilo Betsuin; BSC Director; Rimban, HH Hawaii Betsuin. Thank you very much, our Rimban Tatsuo Ken Muneto for your hard work and tire-



less effort to spread the Dharma. Also, we would like to express our appreciation to Mrs. Edna Nishioka Muneto and daughters, Edlyn Okano and Pamela Inake, and their families for their support. Rev. Muneto, thank you very much for being our Rimban. We look forward working with you more in the future!!

Rimban's Column: "Living in Amida's Life"

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto



This month, I wish to share with the readers of GOJI a beautiful Jodo Shin poem, written by a Shin teacher

more than 75 years ago. If you were recently separated from your parent, will you use this poem as a reference? If you want to know where he/she went after this life, you can find your answer in this poem. Translated into English by the late Dr. Taitetsu Unno about 30 years ago, it reads:

If you yearn for me,
say "Namo Amida Butsu,"
for I, too live in these
seven syllables.

The author of this poem was Mr. Join Shirai of Hiroshima. He was a college professor of ethics and was a devout Shin seeker. When he became very old and ill, the family doctor told the two daughters that the father would not last too long. The two daughters were very disheartened. In order to encourage the daughters, the father related to them that he was not merely dying. He said that he would be living in the true source of human life, and he would come back to this human life to guide others.

"Namo Amida Butsu" is the Name of Amida Buddha. In order to direct the content of the Enlightened Mind of Amida, which is wisdom, love and compassion, to all sentient beings, Amida became the Name. It is ever directed to each of us, so that it reverberates in our hearts, and it is pronounced through our lips. Human minds and hearts are transformed into the minds and hearts of great compassion.

Sensei Join Shirai indicated that there is a limit in human love, but that is transformed into Amida's compassion, which is "Namo Amida Butsu." He taught the daughters that he would live in Amida's compassion, so he told them to say the Nembutsu.

Dr. Taitetsu Unno passed on in the middle of December at his residence in Eugene, Oregon with his family and friends around him. According to his son, Dr. Mark Unno, Dr. T. Unno knew

that his life would be expiring soon. He and the families exchanged warm words of Amida's love and the Nembutsu. The father told the son "Thank you very, very much." The son did the same. When he was no longer able to speak, he joined his palms in Gassho, and he peacefully took his last breath. At that moment, Mark felt that the father's whole being entered into his being. The father and the son were in Namo Amida Butsu.

I am one of many members of Jodo Shin in Hawaii who learned from Dr. T. Unno, the essence of Shin teaching, which was "Namo Amida Butsu." I truly miss him, but I don't feel that he passed away. He is in "Namo Amida Butsu", which I can recite at any time, and thus, I can remember Dr. T. Unno, his scholarship, character, humanness. Namo Amida Butsu!



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044.. There is no newsletter published for the month of August.

DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication. Mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813), fax (536-0919), or e-mail (hibetsuin@hawaii.rr.com) all items to the **GOJI**. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

GOJI STAFF:

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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.

HBC Buddha Day Service

April 5
9 AM

Soto Mission
of Hawaii

Speaker:

Dr. Jay Sakashita



Dharma Message

“Embracing Change”

“Embrace Change” is the slogan adopted by the Kyodan. Although change is an undeniable reality, still we make attempts to circumvent this truth by clinging to the illusion that we are in control of our lives at all times. We often try to force life to be how we think it should be or want it to be.

Prior to his Enlightenment Siddhartha had practiced with five monks. These five came to hold Siddhartha in high regard due to the strength of his ascetic practices. When Siddhartha realized that neither the extreme of asceticism or of great opulence (which was the world from which he came from) would lead to the answers to his questions about life, he accepted a bowl of rice gruel offered by a young farmer maiden. When the five witnessed this, their attitude towards Siddhartha changed, as they thought he had given up his quest for the truth and they decided not to associate with

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

him any longer.

By some accounts, it is said that after Siddhartha had attained his Enlightenment he went to his five companions to tell them of what he had come to realize. The five had decided that they were not going to listen to him, but they soon changed their minds after hearing some of what he had to tell them. Siddhartha first advised them of the truth of change or impermanence as a constant in existence.

Change is not something that we necessarily want to acknowledge. Many of the illusions which we live within have no place for “change”. As adults we are taught to take charge of our lives, take control and make something of our lives, but, what we are not told is that we have to do this in an ever-changing existence. So, learning how to embrace change becomes all the more important.

I often use the ocean as a metaphor for this life of change. There is no time in which the ocean is not in motion and changing. As island people, many of us like to play in the ocean by fishing, swimming, skiing, sailing or surfing. The only way we can do this safely is if we harmonize with the ocean to the best of our ability.

Let’s take surfers for example. Surfers do not and cannot control the ocean but they can learn to harmonize with what the ocean is doing, its changes. They wait patiently until they see or sense a swelling beneath their board. Their position in relationship to the swell and their timing might allow them to ride the growing wave beneath them, towards the



shore. Practice and experience of this harmony sharpens their skills so that all those calculations are done in the blink of an eye. So, in effect, the surfers were in the process of embracing the changes in the ocean that would give them the opportunity to ride a good wave.

In this case, our surfers are our dharma teachers. They respond to the changes in the ocean and we must learn to respond to the changes in our ever changing lives. Although we may “hang ten” on occasion, we gain experience and training. It is not a requirement that you be a surfer to embrace change; all you have to be is human. Namoamidabutsu

Mark your calendar!
May 3rd

Higan continued from page 1

Hawaii. His assignments were Moiliili Hongwanji (1967-1975), Lihue Hongwanji with oversight of Kapaa Hongwanji (1975-1983), Wahiawa Hongwanji with oversight of Kahuku Hongwanji (1983-1990), Hilo Betsuin (1990-2000), BSC Director(2000-2007) and Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (2007-2011) He is now retired and lives in Kaimuki with his mother and wife Michiko. Rev. Okano has one daughter, one son and five grandchildren.

Betsuin BWA News

Fujiko Motobu

Ojizo San: A Japanese folktale

In the January 2, 2015 issue of the Hawaii Herald there was an interesting article by Carolyn Kubota Morinishi and Marian Kurasaki Kubota about the significance of the Ojizosan.

The story goes, once there was an old man and old woman who lived in a country village in Japan. They were poor and made a living by weaving kasa or straw hats. One winter day as it snowed, the old man said to his wife that he was going into the village to sell some hats and buy some sweet rice cakes, or mochi. He packed five new kases and walked to the nearest town, but unfortunately he was unable to sell any straw hats. Disappointed, he started back home when he saw six stone statues of Ojizosan, the protector of children, all covered with snow.

He thought, how sad that the ojizosan were so cold and covered by snow, and he unwrapped his package of the brand new kasa and put them on each of the statues' heads. He only had five new hats and there were six statues, so he took off his own kasa and put it on the last ojizo's head.

When he went home he told his wife about what he had done and that he wasn't able to buy any mochi. But his wife was a compassionate person and she told him that he was so nice of him to keep the ojizosan warm. She told him that it was better to do something kind for others than for them to eat mochi.

The old man and old woman went to sleep that night, but later that night they heard noises outside their door. When they went to the door to see what was happening, they found two large, fresh mochi on their doorstep. They won-

dered who would give them such a nice gift. Then, in the distance, they saw six stone Ojizosans walking away still wearing the new straw kasa that the old man had given them. The end

Ojizo, in Japan, is known as the protector of children, and they are often seen in groups of six and wearing red. There are many reasons for this, depending on the different regions and time period. One interpretation of the six ojizos helps people in the six realms of existence. The red bib and hat are thought to be protective color for children.

THANK YOU FOR FOLDING THE CRANES:

To date, Hawaii Betsuin BWA has sent to Honokaa Hongwanji over 50,000 cranes. Thanks to the many members as well as non-members and family members who have diligently folded beautiful cranes which will be sent to Hiroshima and Nagasaki for their 70th memorial service in August of 2015.

Thank you also to the ministers and others who have taken bags of cranes to the Big Island for us for free, as their carryon baggage. Giseikai delegates from the Big Island all took back our cranes for us. Thank you very much. We shall continue folding the cranes until summer or until Honokaa tells us to "QUIT". Mr.

Miles Okumura of Honokaa Hongwanji has been our contact person. Thank you Miles.

KEEP TRAINING YOUR BRAIN: from Oct. issue of Makawao Hongwanji
Your brain is like a muscle: if you don't use it, you lose it. The brain declines not from aging but from lack of use. Watching television requires less brain energy than looking at a wall. So, play cards, write a letter, do crossword puzzles, stay social, take a class or get into an activity that you enjoy and that stretches your mind. And of course get some good laughs every day and inhale your oxygen into your brain.

WARNING SIGNS THAT YOU MAY THINK ARE NOTHING, BUT YOU SHOULD NOT IGNORE: Symptoms for a female heart attack may differ than that of a male. 1) Sweating suddenly; 2) Nausea or dizziness; 3) Breathlessness; 4) Sleeplessness and 5) Anxiety. With any of these symptoms, see your doctor right away.

NOW FOR SOME HUMOR: A little boy is in his back yard filling in a hole. A neighbor looks over the fence and asks what he's doing. I'm burying my pet goldfish" says the little boy. "That's a big hole for a little goldfish isn't it?" comments the neighbor. "Not really." Replies the little boy. "It's inside your darn cat."

BWA World Convention Calgary, Canada May 30 & 31, 2015

Eleven BWA members from Hawaii Betsuin and three spouses will be attending this convention, and undoubtedly will return full of zest and ideas about making the activities more exciting and interesting in the future. Manpower is always needed and greatly appreciated by the women, so we are happy at least three husbands are "chaperoning" the bunch of ladies. The BWA ladies who will be attending the convention will undoubtedly bring back many great ideas.

Dr. Taitetsu Unno Remembrance Connie Fukumoto

It is my pleasure to share my gratitude and appreciation to Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno; a scholar, a mentor, an exceptional human being, a fellow traveler and friend.

Dr. Unno came into my life through the workings of compassion and integrity of former Bishop Kanmo Imamura. Although he was showing signs of disability, he worked tirelessly to bring about the "scholar in residence" program to University of Hawaii and our Kyodan. Bishop Imamura retired to California long before the Unno family-Ty, his wife Alice and son Mark arrived in Hawaii. They were welcomed by faculty to a get-together at a nearby apartment. On their walk home, Alice fell and broke her leg. We were summoned to help and found the family to be warm, gentle, and grateful. Dr. Unno was no longer our conceptualized professor, he was a warm human being.

Dr. Unno began his weekly sessions at BSC and attendance increased so that it was moved to the Betsuin Annex. His lectures were meaningful, fun to listen to, and encouraged participation. New words like Primal Vow, shinjin, akunin, karmic limitations, bonno, and gratitude were introduced and

explained. He related the teachings to our everyday lives and encouraged us to look within, to see how our ego functioned in the light of the Teachings. Soon the semester came to an end and he returned to Massachusetts. He wrote encouraging letters to keep us connected. The following is a quote from his first letter: *"We hope that the seeds of shinjin planted will be cultivated in the days to come and eventually bear rich fruits, so that this precious and irreplaceable life given to each of us will be infused with real significance and so that the bonds of human relationships that tie us intimately together will be treasured and be made truly meaningful."*

From thousands of miles away in Massachusetts, he tended the crops he had sown. First came the "Shinshu ko" where groups of people in a community got together regularly to study, discuss, appreciate the teachings. Next, he enhanced the Nembutsu retreats held in Kahuku by inviting teachers from Japan who lived the teach-

ings and he flew in to help translate whenever possible. Next he encouraged Rev. Will Masuda and family to come from San Francisco to Hawaii to tend his garden. Next the BSC summer sessions invited scholars from Japan (Tokunaga and Shigaraki sensei)



Dr. and Mrs. Unno at the Betsuin August 2000

and mainland (Kubose sensei, etc.) from Switzerland-Rev. Jerome Ducor, Brazil-Rev. Gustavo Pinto and from Belgium, Rev. Shitoku Peel.

Next came the Listening Tours to Japan. We met a businessman who shared his Butsudan with his employees. We met sincere and humble minister scholars who shared their paths. We met a minister who dedicated his temple to his teacher. We met myokonin neighbors and friends. We also experienced a retreat in Mt. Hiei.

In the 1990's our focus moved to Europe where small sanghas of Nembutsu followers flourished. We attended the European Shin Conference with worldwide participation-Japan, Brazil, Africa, and Europe. Ty Unno and Ruth Tabrah contributed to these sessions.

Wow! How the garden flourished! It's hard to imagine how it all started and where it took us. We were extremely fortunate to be a part of this journey. Ty and Alice continues to carry this journey forward through their son Mark, Rev. Dr. Mark Unno, Professor of Religion at Oregon University who continues to share the Teachings with us. With deep gratitude and appreciation, we thank you! Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno. Namu Amida Butsu.



Temple Activities

Dharma School Mochi Tsuki

Debbie Kubota

On January 4, 2015, Dharma School students and families were treated to a traditional New Year celebration, mochi tsuki. Students got a chance to make mochi in the traditional way, pounding the mochi rice using a wooden mallet (kine) in a mortar (usu). Mochi making machines were also used, to save time. Part of the fun was deciding what kind of filling to use, with choices including traditional black bean paste (an), peanut butter, nutella, Okinawan sweet potato, cheese, and chocolate candies. Students also had fun decorating their own hachimaki, thanks to the Dharma School PTO. There is nothing like eating warm, freshly made mochi with your own choice of filling! A fun time was had by all!

The Dharma School has more fun to come this year with Keiki Day on May 3 and a possible trip to Kauai including a visit with Reverend Hojo and a Bon Dance. Stay tuned!



Ministers Say "Mahalo for Your Support!"



The Honolulu Minister's association would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who supported our car wash fundraiser for the Pacific Buddhist Academy. Thank you very much to the Hawaii Betsuin for letting us use your facility.

We were able to make \$1,489.00!! Unfortunately, we had to turn away some people. We apologize for this but we still appreciate your support!! Again, thank you very much and please continue to support the bright future of the Pacific Buddhist Academy!!

**Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
and Sister Oahu Temples**

Spring Bazaar

Sunday March 29th
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Rummage Sale

Entertainment Bazaar

"Ono-Kine" food
KC Waffle Dogs
Informational Booths
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Plants
Bake shop
Shave Ice

Donations Welcomed!

Don't forget your coupons!



BOY SCOUT TROOP 49 2015 Scout Sunday

The Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts gathered in full uniform for a Scout Sunday Service on Sunday February 1, 2015. Scout Sunday is an annual tradition that recognizes the contributions of scouting for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts. The Scouts were acknowledged for their achievements, such as the Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award, the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, and the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award. After the service, the Boy Scouts cooked quesadillas with cheese and pulled pork. The Girl Scouts prepared refreshments, showcased displays and had a cupcake decorating activity. The Cub Scouts held their pinewood derby car race in the Annex Hall. We take this Scout Sunday opportunity to thank the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin for their continued support as the units' chartered organization.

Douglas Yanagihara, Troop 49 Boy Scout



Girl Scout Bronze Award recipients



Girl Scout Silver Award recipients.



Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award recipients. Left to right:
Jason Fujita, Douglas Yanagihara, Justin Kam.



Cub Scouts Arrow of Light Award recipients.

Girl Scout Gold Award recipients



**Hongwanji
Radio Programs
MARCH 2015
KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 7 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
- 14 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 21 Rimban Tatsuo Muneto
- 28 Rev. J Okamoto

**Betsuin Services
Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 01 Hongwanji Day
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
- 08 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
- 15 Spring Higan:
Combined service 9:30
Rev Thomas R. Okano
- 22 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 29 Spring Bazaar
NO SERVICE

**Dharma School
Service 9 AM**

- 01 Hongwanji Day
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
- 08 Rev. Tatsuo Muneto
- 15 Spring Higan:
Combined service 9:30
Rev Thomas R. Okano
- 22 Dharma School Teacher
- 29 Spring Bazaar

Nursing Home Services

- 05 Hale Nani – Rev. Tomioka
Hale Ho Aloha
Rev. Hagio
- 12 Maluhia – Rev. Muneto
Liliha – Rev. Hasebe
- 13 Hale Pulama Mau
Rev. Kaufmann
- 26 Nuuanu Hale
Rev. Hasebe
- 27 Leahi – Rev. Kaufmann

In Memoriam



JANUARY 2015

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 15 ENG, Aiko Takahashi (81) | 21 OOKA, Thomas Shigeru (92) |
| 15 ICHIMURA, Morio (95) | 23 MURAOKA, Katsuyoshi (93) |
| 16 KIMURA, Elsie Natsuyo (99) | 24 ISA, Joki (71) |
| 16 MAEKAWA, Winifred Misue (87) | 24 IWAI, Toyoko (92) |
| 16 TSUKAMOTO, Tsuneo (93) | 25 TSUE, Richard Takeshi (71) |
| 18 FUJITA, Larry Sadao (69) | 26 ALLEN, Nobu Otani (90) |
| 19 MIURA, Norimichi (88) | 29 KAGIYAMA, Stanley Kiyoshi (83) |
| 20 OKAZAKI, Bessie Emiko (90) | |

2015 Memorial Service Schedule

2015 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2014 – 1 year	2003 – 13 year	1983 – 33 year
2013 – 3 year	1999 – 17 year	1966 – 50 year
2009 – 7 year	1991 – 25 year	1916 – 100 year

Betsuin Choir Welcomes Guests from Hiroshima



The Hawaii Betsuin Choir recently welcomed the Aki Bukkyo Ongaku Renmei from Hiroshima. The choir practiced Gathas and hula to share with the visitors. For information about joining the choir, contact any choir member!!



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