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GOJI

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

2016 Slogan:
Embrace Change:
New Vision
(Create Engagement)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

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

Hawaii Betsuin Bon Dance Scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 24th and 25th!

Come join the festivities!

Obon season has come, once again!! The origin of Obon can be traced back to the story of Mogallana who looked for his departed mother. Mogallana used his extraordinary powers to visualize the whereabouts of his mother who had recently passed away. He found that his mother was in the hell of hungry ghosts. In that realm, all food and drink turned into fire, and people over there desperately craved food and drink.

Mogallana saw his mother's suffering and ran to Shakyamuni Buddha for his guidance. The virtue of Shakyamuni Buddha, other monks, and all beings saved the mother from the hell. Mogallana saw it and danced with joy. That was the origin of the Bon Dance.

When we hear this story, it is hard for us, who live in the 21st century, to believe it. We don't have any extraordinary powers nor do we have the power to look for departed loved ones in hell. The Hanamatsuri (Buddha's birthday) story may also be hard to understand; we have to think about what is the essence of these stories. This Mogallana story tells us the importance of "Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha." Mogallana's pain that he suffered as he looked for his departed beloved mother and as he tried to save her from hell explains our natural feeling. Mogallana's mother's suffering with unlimited desires and passion illustrates human's true nature.

The Obon story is not one of the Jodo Shinshu Teachings, but this story gives us an opportunity to meet Amida Buddha's teaching and lets us realize our true nature. All incidents and all encounters are chances to meet Amida Buddha. Please come join Hawaii Betsuin's festive Bon Dance!



Dharma Message: “The Ration of Good to Bad” Rev Arthur Kaufmann

To look at today's news stories one might think that this is a pretty bad and dangerous world we live in. While I cannot deny that there are troubles, dangers and natural disasters in this life, we should not let our perspective become too dark.

There was an old saying in the news business, from pre-computer time, that went “Bad news sells newspapers” or “good news does not sell newspapers”. To some extent these sayings still guide news reporting in the media. Nowadays, happily, it is not all bad news. I think the media has come to realization that the above sayings are not necessarily always true. As a mat-

ter of fact, we need to hear some good news some of the time do we not? If we do not, we might think that the bad outweighs the good and that would be a terrible mistake not to mention a very depressing perspective.

Let's look at a few items in the news, Muslim fundamentalists for example, Isis. One might think, and it appears, due to the fear generated, that all Muslims are terrorists just waiting to harm us.

Well yes, there are terrorists who are Muslims but there are also millions of Muslims who are not terrorists and do not wish to harm other people or judge them for being different. Most just want to join the rest of us and raise their families, educate their children and live a comfortable and peaceful life.

Animals, around the world are being abused, either for profit or for some misguided ego satisfaction. However, there are also different organizations and groups of people who are working to prevent these abuses and, in some cases, rescue animals from desperate situations.

Some of our own people in Hawaii are homeless; something that was unthinkable some years ago. Now there are many social agencies working to alleviate that situation by providing services to this group enabling them to have a better life.

The ratio between the suffering and those involved in alleviating the suffering is indeed vast. The good being much greater than the bad.

We human beings are very fortunate in that the teachings of the Buddha deal with the realities of the dis-ease

in this human life in no uncertain terms. The Shakamuni Buddha revealed this dis-ease, its cause and how to alleviate our dis-ease.



Even for those of us who are so far removed from the Buddha's time and cannot live a monastic life, there is the possibility of liberation. The precious gift of the Nembutsu or Amida Buddha's name, Namoamidabutsu, was transmitted to us through boundless compassion for that very purpose. It represents the dynamic action of the Buddha Dharma in its efforts to liberate us and bring us to a state of bliss where we too, like Amida, can finally work towards the Enlightenment of all life.

It has become a great comfort to me, over the years, just knowing that there is “something” on my side. That “something” is the combination of Infinite Wisdom and Boundless Compassion all contained within the Nembutsu in the form of Namoamidabutsu which is always looking out for me.

So while I may struggle with the Three Poisons of greed, anger and ignorance, as Shinran our founder said “Although my eyes are blinded by desires, the Great Compassion never tires, always shedding its light upon me.”

Through this, I can recognize the dis-ease in my life but also to become aware of beauty in this life and to realize that the good does, and always will, outweigh the bad.

Namoamidabutsu



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.

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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.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 49 2016 Taste of Hongwanji

Despite the passing showers, some of them very heavy, it seemed that all the booths at this year's Taste of Hongwanji Betsuin Bazaar on Sunday, April 17 did brisk business. Some of the new items offered this year were okonomiyaki by the Pacific Buddhist Academy students, somen salad in addition to their annual produce sale by the Betsuin board members, salsa by Cub Scout Pack 49, and of course the special items offered by Kailua and Moiliili Hongwanji temples. HMS featured KC waffle dogs, peanut butter shakes, shaved ice and drinks. Dharma School helped sell Kala Kokua chicken and kalua pig. The Boy Scouts sold their standard fare: Herb Yasukochi's famous beef stew, Tamamoto's daikon sparerib soup, Okahara fried noodles, teri burger and soy beans. The BWA had their famous takuan available by the Green Team table. The many performances were concluded by a Lion Dance performed by Kong's Siu Lum Pai Association. Maybe the rain encouraged the Boy Scouts to take down the tents in a more expeditious manner as clean up seemed to go more quickly this year. The Girl Scouts, BWA and remaining Boy Scouts helped haul the remaining Rum-mage Sale items to the Girls and Boys Club of Hawaii truck as a donation to close out the day.

Douglas Yanagihara, Troop 49 Boy Scout



The Betsuin sends a Big Mahalo to the
Scouts for their outstanding work
at the Taste of Hongwanji!
You did a Super Job and we appreciate it!

Betsuin Dharma School News:

Debbie Kubota

Keiki Day - Honolulu Dharma Schools Visit Wahiawa Hongwanji

Early in the morning on May 1st, Betsuin Dharma School students, families and teachers, joined by other Honolulu district families, boarded a bus and headed to Wahiawa Hongwanji for the annual Keiki Day celebration. It was the first time, in recent years, that the Honolulu District Dharma Schools visited an Oahu temple and joined in service and fellowship activities. Waipahu Hongwanji families also joined in this event.

The morning started with service in the temple, led by the Wahiawa Dharma Shaka, the Dharma School sangha. Dharma Shaka joined Reverend Kojun Hashimoto to lead the

Vandana Ti Sarana. Rev. Hashimoto gave the Dharma Message. We all laughed as he shared his initial impression of Keiki Day when he first came to the Betsuin many years ago. He thought it was "cake" (ke-ki) day and that we would enjoy a variety of cakes for refreshments!

After service, we headed to the Social Hall for icebreakers and fun activities. Activities included



pretending to be "flowers blooming" as in the sutra "Gassho to Amida" and a paper airplane contest with categories of Farthest Distance and Nicest Flight. What a competition that was!

A lunch of make-your-own sandwiches was provided by the Honolulu Dharma School Teachers Association and attending families brought an assortment of fruits, chips, desserts and other goodies.

Everyone enjoyed this first event between the Honolulu and Oahu Dharma Schools ...comments have already been shared to have an event which combines our island's Dharma School Districts on an annual basis.

Many thanks go out to Wahiawa Hongwanji for being such a gracious, accommodating host. They were very flexible in making sure all went well.

We look forward to future island-wide Dharma School events.....please join us in the future for fellowship, food and most of all.... F U N !!!!



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<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/99-0073500>

Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Fund Established By Hongwanji Mission

Earthquakes on April 14 and April 16 in the Kumamoto Prefecture of Japan have caused extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure and many lives have been lost. Nearly 400 Hongwanji temples suffered damage, up to, and including, structural collapse.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is sending an initial donation of \$5,000 from the Social Welfare fund to Honzan to help those impacted by the quakes.

The Mission has also established a special collection so temple members and friends in Hawaii can add their support.

To contribute, please make out a check to the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin and write "Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Fund" in the memo line. You may also contribute online using the Donate link at hongwanjihawaii.com.

The special collection runs through June 30, 2016. Thank you for your help and concern.

Adult Ukulele Club



One
Thurs.
a Month
at 10 AM
Call the
Betsuin office
for more info!

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 536-7045



and request
a home visit.
We miss you
and do not
want to lose
contact with you!



Yufuin, Ōita



Kumamoto Betsuin gravestones



Collapsed road (news.yahoo.co.jp)



Kumamoto temple hall collapse

Betsuin BWA News and Events

BWA HAS BEEN BUSY!

After the exceptionally busy months of April and May, June should be a breather, but it isn't so for the BWA women. In April we made Hana-matsuri tray favors, prepared for the bazaar rummage sale, made tsuke-mono, and together with the Dharma School, conducted the annual Eshinni-Kakushinni Day service.

May brought our BWA general membership meeting #2, the last Hosha, and presentations at the graduation exercises for PBA, HMS, and Fort Gakuen. Our Mini market was held on May 8, which was Mothers' Day. On Gotan E (Shinran Shonin's birthday), Mrs. Okano's Calligraphy and Flower Arrangement students exhibited their work. Did you notice the purple curtain beautifully decorating the entrance of our Hondo? How about the large, humanlike statue of Shinran Shonin on the stage? Did you notice how serene his face looks? It is a much warmer feeling of Shinran Shonin than his old, aged pictures.

In June the BWA will participate in the Bon Dance festivities in several ways, and help will be needed. First, there is the Bontique. We sell gently-used Japanese dishes and clothing. Please help with the preparation on Thursday, June 23rd and Friday, June 24th. Second, there is kimono dressing. If you are able to dress people in kimono, please volunteer your services for the two nights, Friday June 24th and Saturday, June 25th. Finally, BWA will be preparing tsukemono for this event, so please solicit.

The BWA's annual outing is scheduled for a day in August. President Wa-

sai is accepting any suggestions for places you would like to visit. Once, many years ago, you had a chance to go on the ferry to Maui, and everyone claimed to have had a very nice time and wish that the ferry was still available for such an enjoyable tour. Please make your wishes known.

STRANGE OBSERVATION:

At this year's Taste of Hongwanji bazaar, I experienced a very unusual rainfall experience. On three different occasions, I noticed that whenever the small drums were being played, it began to rain, and when the huge sounding taiko began to play, the rain stopped. This happened three times, so I'm sure the taiko scared the rain away, don't you think so? I am sure most of the people were too busy working to have noticed the rainfall dilemma. The situation cannot be repeated, so you must take my word.

RECIPE: APRICOT PRUNE MUI

5 lbs dried prunes
1½ pounds dried apricots
½ pound dried lemon peel,
cut into pieces
½ pound li hing mui
1 pound brown sugar
1 ½ cups lemon juice
3 tablespoons whiskey
3 tablespoons Hawaiian salt
1 tablespoon five spice powder
10 whole cloves

In a large bowl combine prunes, apricots, lemon peel and li hing mui. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over fruits, mixing well. Let stand 2 days before serving.
Makes 1 gallon.

Fujiko Motobu

NOW FOR SOME HUMOR:

Older people need to laugh to get their brains working

I try to avoid things that make me fat--
SCALES, MIRRORS, AND PHOTOS.

If life's a journey, mine is between the fridge and the computer.

When I get a headache, I take 2 aspirins and keep away from children. Just like it says on the bottle.

I think Snow White had the right idea. She moved in with 7 guys who went to work every day and all she had to do was whistle to get the birds to do her cleaning.

Hawaii Betsuin 2016

Bon Dance

June 24 & 25
Fri. & Sat.
6:00-10:30 pm



Everyone
Welcome!

From the Executive Director



Hello Everyone!
Can you believe that we are already half way through the year? Time is sure flying by. Schools are letting out for the summer, and with

summer, comes the anticipation of Hawaii's bon dance season.

This year, the Hawaii Betsuin will be having its bon dance on June 24th and 25th, Friday and Saturday, from

6:00 pm to 10:30 pm. As in past years, the bon dance committee is working hard in preparation for one of the biggest fundraisers for our temple. From bon dance security, to coordination of the bon dance clubs, to planning of the food booths, it takes an army to make sure that each year's bon dance is a successful one.

Parking is always an issue, but this year, more than ever, we ask for everyone's cooperation. The construction of the new Pacific Buddhist Academy building began recently with the demoli-

Stacy Bradshaw

tion of the Tanaka house and temple caretaker's cottage. Next will be the grading and foundation work for the building. From that point, in early June, until after the building is completed, Hawaii Betsuin will not have the use of the upper grassy parking lot. The projected completion date is in the spring of 2017.

The bon dance committee asks temple members and bon dance workers to park at Hongwanji Mission School (after 4 pm both days), Soto Mission (Fri. after 7 pm; Sat. after 4 pm), or Kawanakoa Middle School (after 4 pm both days). The Betsuin front parking lot will be utilized for student pick up until 1:00 p.m. After that, the Betsuin parking lot will be limited to those performing at the bon dance and those in need of extra assistance.

The Hawaii Betsuin apologizes for any inconvenience you may experience during the construction of the new PBA building, particularly during the bon dance, and would like to express our appreciation to you in advance for your cooperation and understanding regarding the situation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the office.

Did you know?

You can sign up for a weekly email with brief information on the upcoming Sunday's services at the Betsuin. It's called the Betsuin Bulletin, and it's a handy way to be reminded of special service times and locations, see who the dharma talk speakers will be, and get a brief list of coming events.

To subscribe, visit hawaiibetsuin.org and scroll down to the purple sign-up button near the bottom of the page. Or, call the temple office at (808) 536-7044. Anyone may sign up.

The Wisteria Ballroom Dancing Club







Invites You to Dance!

Thursdays, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
in the Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall

No dancing for June and July;
Return the first Thursday in August 2016!

Dances change every 8 weeks;
For August: International Waltz and ChaCha basics

For Information, please contact
Claire Groom (286-3486)
or Mary Fujitani (595-4533)

Reminder....

For those Sundays you are unable to attend the 10:00 am service at the Hawaii Betsuin, tune in to KZOO, 1210 on the AM DIAL, and listen to a previously recorded English Service

**Hongwanji Radio
Programs
JUNE 2016**

**KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 4 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
11 Rev. Hiromi Kawaji
18 Rev. Shingo Furusawa
25 Rev. Shindo Nishiyama

Betsuin Services

**Asaji Service
8:00 AM**

- 05 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
12 Professor Ryusei Tadedo
19 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
26 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 05 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
12 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
19 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
26 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

**Nicchū Service
1:00 PM**

- 05 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
12 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
19 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
26 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Dharma School
9:00 AM**

June 5 Rev. Hagio

**SUMMER BREAK
NO SERVICES**

Please join us at the
10:00 AM Service
during the summer!

In Memoriam



APRIL 2016

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

- 2 OBARA, Doris Toshie (86)
5 YONEMOTO, Kotomi (98)
7 OKUHARA, Mona Hitomi (62)
13 YOSEMORI, Chikai (84)
15 HEE, Vernon Lawrence (60)
15 KAWASAKI, Clara Keiko (85)
16 HAMAGUCHI, Scot Hitoshi (60)
19 KAKUDA, Sue Tsuyako (97)
19 MAKII, Makiko (90)
22 NAKASONE, Sadako (88)
25 SHIGEMATSU, Patsy Yurie (93)
29 OKIMOTO, Doris Misuko (85)
29 TERADA, Sumako (92)

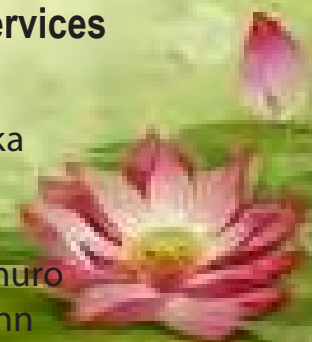
2016 Memorial Service Schedule

2016 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2015 – 1 year	2004 – 13 year	1984 – 33 year
2014 – 3 year	2000 – 17 year	1967 – 50 year
2010 – 7 year	1992 – 25 year	1917 – 100 year

Nursing Home Services

- 02 Hale Nani – Rev. Hasebe
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Tomioka
09 Maluhia – Rev. Kamuro
Liliha – Rev. Hasebe
10 Hale Pulama Mau – Rev. Kamuro
23 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kaufmann
24 Leahi – Rev. Hagio



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