



1727 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

# GOJI

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NEWSLETTER  
of the  
Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin  
[www.hawaiibetsuin.org](http://www.hawaiibetsuin.org)

2015 Slogan:  
Embrace Change:  
Awareness:  
(Seek Opportunities)

BETSUIN  
MINISTERS

Chief Minister  
Rev. Tatsuo Muneto  
Asst. Chief Minister  
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio  
Ministerial Staff  
Rev. Yuika Hasebe  
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann  
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

## Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service at the Betsuin on December 6, 2015

Shakyamuni Buddha, whose original name was Gautama Siddhartha, was a prince of a small kingdom in India about 2500 years ago. His father, King Sudhodana provided his son a luxurious life and prevented him from seeing the real world, which included sickness, aging, and death. But once Prince Siddhartha learned what real life was, he left the castle to seek the true way to eliminate all those sufferings.

Prince Siddhartha went through a lot of hard ascetic practices such as not sleeping and starving himself. After six years of a severe lifestyle, Siddhartha realized he would never succeed in his quest by following such a course. He left the Mountain where he practiced with other monks and washed himself in the Niranjana River. One village girl offered him milk-porridge, and he gratefully accepted it. He regained his strength then sat down under the Bodhi tree and began to meditate to seek the way to free all from suffering.

In the early morning hours of December 8<sup>th</sup> Gautama Siddhartha attained Enlightenment at the age of 35, thus becoming Sakyamuni Buddha, the Awakened One. His teachings spread throughout the world, including to all of us, even after 2500 years. We celebrate his Enlightenment as Bodhi day, the day he found the truth of eliminating suffering for all of us.

This year's guest speaker will be Mr. Edwin P. Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins is the President Emeritus of the Japan-America



Continued on page 3

## Betsuin Says Aloha to Rimban: Rev. Muneto to Retire; Rev. Hagio is New Rimban



Rev. Tatsuo Muneto will retire from active duty for the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Kyodan effective December 15, 2015. During his 50 years' service to the Hawaii Kyodan temples, Rev. Muneto was assigned to Hawaii Betsuin four times: in 1965 as a new minister, in 1970 as Director of the English Department, in 1990 as Fuku-Rimban and in 2012 as Rimban. After retirement, Rev. Muneto will do volunteer work in the community.

Rev. Toyokazu Hagio will assume the position of Rimban effective December 16. A native of Kumamoto, Japan, he served at Waialua Hongwanji, Honomu Hongwanji, Wailuku Hongwanji, Waipahu Hongwanji and Hilo Betsuin as Rimban. He has been Fuku-Rimban of Hawaii Betsuin since February, 2014. Rev. Hagio will review the Rimban's duties and assign responsibilities to the four Betsuin ministers.



## Rimban's Column: Mahalo Nui Loa To All!

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto



Through the warm guidance and support of the temple leaders and many members, I am now able to retire from active duty as a minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. My heart and mind are filled with so many good memories of my ministry that began in September 1965. Above all, it was the benevolent guidance of Amida Buddha that enabled me to serve Hawaii

When the temple members heard that I was retiring, quite a few of them said they couldn't believe it. They said, "Rev. Muneto, you look so young. You shouldn't retire yet." I didn't know if I should feel happy or not with their

comments. For the past few years, I became aware that I did not look like a person whose age was over 70. I think that there are several ingredients that make me look young.

1. **My genes:** my mother looked young;

2. **My build:** anyone who is small built looks young;

3. **My nutrition:** my wife doesn't feed me white rice for health reasons, and

4. **My religion:** in Jodo Shin Buddhism there is no karmic retribution.

of my language barrier and partly because I was pakiki.

It was at such difficult and sad times of self-awareness that I received the unconditional compassion of Amida Buddha, not karmic retribution. This awareness has deepened lately.

Our actions are like a rock thrown into a pond. Karma is the ripples, which spread out but also come back to the person who threw the rock. If we use an inappropriate word, it comes back to us. It is we that suffer now, later, and in the life to come as well.

However, Amida's compassionate vow to liberate such a person of defiled karma was fulfilled, so there is no karmic retribution. Embraced by this vow of Amida Buddha, I humbly recollect my short comings in my ministry, and gratefully thank Amida Buddha for being with me and the temple members through "Namo Amida Butsu." And joyfully, I thank the numerous members, children and adults, who I associated with at Hawaii Kyodan temples. I will continue to walk the path of Nembutsu with them.

"...May every link in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love be bright and strong, and may we all attain perfect peace!"

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:

Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Ralston Nagata, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, Japanese section editor,* Production: *Stacy Bradshaw, Alice Omura, Alice Tando, Kimiyo Miyose;* Circulation: *Stacy Bradshaw;* Contributing reporters from *Hongwanji Mission School, Buddhist Women's Association, Dharma School & Parents, Project Dana, Wednesday Gang and Gals, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pacific Buddhist Academy, and the Kyodan*

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

What does it mean that in the Buddhist faith, there is no karmic retribution? When I came to Hawaii Betsuin in late August of 1965, I was so impressed with the beautiful wording of "The Golden Chain of Love," which was written by Dorothy Hunt in the 1930's for the children of Hawaii. In two weeks, I was able to say the words by heart. As you know, "The Golden Chain of Love" is a summation of the Eightfold Path that the historical Sakyamuni Buddha taught for all to follow.

One part of "The Golden Chain" is to "...say pure and beautiful words," but how is it possible to say pure and beautiful words consistently in our relationships? It's quite difficult. Looking back at my 50 years of ministry, I recall, as a young minister, I had occasional confrontations with temple lay leaders in Honolulu, Hilo, Kona, and Lihue. Unfortunately, I sometimes failed to use good verbal communications with the leaders, partly because

## Message from the Executive Director, Stacy Bradshaw

Buddhism teaches us the impermanence of life. Though our temple structure remains the solid and beautiful white pillar of the community, built by our ancestors over a century ago, the meaning of what the temple represents has greatly changed. The value of coming to the temple that was once instilled generation after generation is slowly being overlooked by our young adults because of their chaotic and hectic schedules. This is apparent in the decline in membership and of attendance at memorial services.

Our ancestors, through their hard work and devotion, built the temple as a much-needed place to congregate for religious, cultural and social purposes. Today, the temple still serves as a center for Shinshu seekers, cultural classes, and other social-based affiliate organizations. We also serve the community through outreach programs such as Project Dana, the Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii, Central Middle School All-Stars Program, the Interfaith Alliance and Family Promise.

In order to maintain the level of ac-

tivities at the temple, and develop new programs to help bring interest back to the temple, the Betsuin relies greatly on the generosity of its members and temple supporters. However, with the cost of operations and the ongoing maintenance of the facilities continuing to rise every year, the temple membership dues and contributions, which is the core of the temple's financial stability, is insufficient.

As a result, the Board of Directors decided that an increase in the 2016 membership dues is necessary. The new amount is \$180 (previously \$150) for individuals and \$360 (previously \$300) for couples and families. A new feature is that members may pay on a monthly basis if they wish. The amount would be \$15 per month for individuals and \$30 for couples and families.

Those who are unable to pay the full amount should contact the office to discuss an amount that fits their financial situation. The temple will never turn down anyone who wishes to be a member.

Temple membership shows one's commitment to be a Jodo Shinshu follower and ensures the preservation of the temple and its facilities for the future generations. It is also a way for us to express our appreciation to those who worked hard to build the temple for the purpose of spreading the Nembutsu teaching in Hawaii. Finally, we hope that those who belong to affiliated organizations and use the temple facilities will also become dues-paying members in order to share in the upkeep of the buildings.

Please continue to support the temple and its operating budget so that the Board, Ministers, and Staff can strengthen their services to its members, affiliated groups and the community. Namo Amida Butsu

### Welcome Our New Minister, Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Rev. Joshin Kamuro will be assigned to Hawaii Betsuin effective December 16, 2015. He is from Kumamoto, Japan and is 36 years old. After receiving his BA degree in Shin Buddhist Studies in 2001, Rev. Kamuro worked for EKO HOUSE of Japanese Culture, a division of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai in Dusseldorf, Germany for five years. He received MA Degree in Shin Buddhist Studies, and completed his Doctoral Program in 2014. He is married and has a son who is 8 years old. Betsuin Sangha welcomes Rev. Kamuro and his family with Aloha.



### HBC Bodhi Day Service continued from page 1

Society of Hawaii (JASH) and the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation. Born in Japan, he has spent a lifetime immersed in international affairs. Mr. Hawkins is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy (B.S., East Asian Studies), Harvard University (M.A., East Asian Studies), and Japan National Institute for Defense Studies (senior military school).

In conjunction with this year's Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day service, there is a photo contest and food drive for the homeless. Please bring non-perishable items such as canned food, rice, or spaghetti. The theme of the photo contest was "Peace." The contestants submitted pictures, which illustrated a Buddhist message such as non-violence, harmony, mutual respect, and interdependence. At the service, the winners will be recognized, and the photos will be displayed in the social hall.

Please join us at this wonderful, festive service which will be held at Hawaii Betsuin on December 6, 2015 at 9:00 AM.

## Betsuin BWA News

Fujiko Motobu

### BWA Election of Officers for 2016

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin BWA officers for 2016 will be the same as 2015, for they inherited a two year term. They are: President Florence Wasai; 1<sup>st</sup> VP Liane Wong; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Wendie Yumori; Recording Secretary, Fujiko Motobu; Corresponding Secretary, Sharyn Sekine; Treasurer, Lillian Kadomoto; Assistant Treasurer, Lillian Inatsuka; Auditors, Peggy Shintaku and Edith Tanaka; Directors, Barbara Brennan, Mary Fujitani, June Iwahashi, Fusae Kiyokawa, Tamayo Matsumoto, and Carol Yamamoto. With retirement of advisor, the Rev. T. Muneto, Rev. Hagio will most likely replace him as BWA advisor, and Mrs. Hagio will be the Honorary Advisor.

The January, 2016 issue will cover the upcoming activities calendar for the BWA and the President Florence Wasai's message.

### December Hi-lights

Sunday, December 13 is our BWA year- end party, which will be held in the social hall right after the 10 o'clock service. All BWA members and their guests, spouses and others who always very generously help the BWA women with all of the activities are invited to take part in our enjoyable festivities. Spring bazaar, Taste of Hongwanji, as well as Summer bontique at the Bon Dances, and many food preparation activities such as tsukemono, baking, spam musubis, etc. are part of the BWA specialties.

The BWA ladies have great taste buds, sense of smell and skillful hands and they work tirelessly in all activities. The only problem is that many of the ladies are either old or getting old and will soon need younger hands to assist us. If you think that you are young, please come and help us.

### How To Plant Your Garden

*(From Nancy Shimamoto, Moiliili Hongwanji Oct. 2015 issue of the WHITE WAY)*

"Go to your garden alone while the dew drops are still on the leaves and take a moment to smell the roses. Next. Find an open space to plant your very own "garden of daily living." First, plant 3 rows of "peas"... Peace of mind; Peace of heart; Peace of soul. Be sure to plant 4 rows of "squash".. Squash greed; Squash anger; Squash ignorance; Squash grumbling. Plant 4 rows of "lettuce"...Lettuce be compassionate; Lettuce be mindful; Lettuce show gratitude; Lettuce show aloha. No garden is complete without "turnips"... Turnip for meetings; Turnip for statewide conventions; Turnip for temple services; Turnip for events and activities of your Sangha; Turnip to help and support each other. Finally, to add the finishing touch, we must have "thyme"...Time to build positive relationships; Time to learn and be guided by the 3 treasurers (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha); Time to put our hands together in gratitude; Namo Amida Butsu. Be sure to water freely with patience and care, then cultivate with wisdom and compassion.

May your garden of daily living bloom and grow."

Save the Date!

2016

Annual Membership Meeting  
and New Year's Party  
Saturday, January 30th  
4:00 PM



## BOY SCOUT TROOP 49

### Bradly Wong's Eagle Scout Service Project

Joanne Ebesu

Bradley Wong recently completed his Eagle Scout Service Project. He is 17 years old and currently a senior at Hawaii Baptist Academy. Bradley has been in Scouting for 11 years, since he was a Tiger Cub Scout. Outside of Scouting, he plays the tuba for the school band, and participates in the school's Mock Trial program. He also plays tennis, runs cross country and track, and hopes to play soccer this year.

The goals for Bradley's Eagle Project were repainting the interior of the gym and the outside railings. Both were successful. He had attended preschool at Hongwanji Mission School, and previous Eagle Scouts had Eagle Projects at the school and church, so it was the first place on his mind to give back to. Some of the challenges he faced when coordinating his Eagle Project included having trouble with so-

liciting paint donations. The paint company had restraints with what they could donate, so the school was helpful enough to purchase the remaining paint. He also never realized painting was such a big job, but feels that the project itself went really smoothly, because everyone (about 70 volunteers!) worked well. Bradley learned a lot about planning events, which was new to him because he has always been used to execution rather than planning.

Bradley's first leadership position as a Scout was the assistant patrol leader, and then patrol leader. He went on to become an assistant senior patrol leader, and finally, the senior patrol leader. He is a born leader.



Painting the railings outside of the gym.

The most important lesson he has earned from Boy Scouts is brotherhood. He has come to rely on the other Scouts to help him, because he couldn't have done everything on his own. His proudest achievement as a Scout is finishing the 50 mile hike on the Big Island this past summer.

Bradley would like to first thank his parents, because they pushed him to finish up his project. He is also extraordinarily grateful to his Scoutmasters and the advancement committee. Lastly, he thanks all the Scouts and their parents who have helped him throughout his long journey. His plans for the future include attending college, most likely UH, majoring in English, and then going to law school. He would like to continue helping the Troop as a leader.



Troop Scouts and leaders who helped Bradley finish his Eagle Project.

## Project Dana Dancers at Hawaii Betsuin : A Brief History Sumie Sueishi



In January 1997, Ayako Taketa, the Project Dana Coordinator of Volunteers (1996-2004), and I co-founded the Project Dana Dancers. Prior to this time, Ayako Taketa, a teacher of Japanese minyo, had been taking her dance group to entertain at several nursing homes in the community. I joined hands with Ayako in 1996; Ayako continued to teach the Japanese dances, and I gradually introduced line dances. Their dance group participated in the Hawaii Betsuin Ministers' visitation and worship services.

After the official co-founding of the Project Dana Dancers in January 1997, the group continued to participate in the worship services at Nuuanu Hale, Liliha Health Care, and Hale Ho Aloha, and over time, they accompanied the following Hawaii Betsuin ministers: Reverends Ama, Saito, Kawaji, Takata, Kato, Muneto, Fujikawa, Shoji Matsumoto, Makino, and Jan Youth. The dancers engaged in simple performances of songs/exercises, group singing, minyo, and line dancing.

In May 2002, the Project Dana Dancers were no longer part of the Ministers' worship service. Sensing the need to vary the program and make it more exciting, I pursued instruction in a variety of other dance forms: hula, Okinawan dancing, and Zumba. I already had seven years of private lessons in ballroom dancing and experience in performing before live audiences in dance exhibitions. This background gave me the confidence to choreograph dances, using ballroom dance steps and techniques.

I also reached out and tapped others' expertise -- Carol Yamamoto for Rhythm and Life, Edna Muneto for Japanese dance, and Gerri Hatada for hula. Providing technological assistance to the Project Dana Dancers were dancer, Wendie Yumori, and her husband, Roy, who recently was named an honorary member. They videotaped the new dances and made practice copies for the dancers. In addition, Roy put the entire program of 15 musical dance accompaniments on

one CD to make it easier for the audio technician.

The Project Dana Dancers became an interfaith group when Gayle Fukunaga and Joan Nakamoto, both Christians, joined the group. They are invaluable assets. Both Gayle and Joan, "sisters" in the truest sense, willingly are shouldering a great deal of responsibility.

The Project Dana Dancers, in its early days, entertained at three nursing homes. In 2015, they entertained at ten nursing homes/day care facilities with each performance lasting 45 minutes to an hour. The busiest year was 2012 when the group visited 13 nursing homes. In the past, the Project Dana Dancers also entertained at Oahu Care Facility, Maluhia Day Care, Aloha Nursing Rehab Center, Convalescent Center of Honolulu, Hale Nani, Waipahu Hongwanji Day Care Center, and Wahiawa Care Home. In addition, they performed at Lanakila Community Center, Kahala Nui, Craigside, the 442<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas

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## Golf Tournament 2015 A Big Winner!



For a few days at the beginning of August, Hurricane Hilda was headed for the islands. Last year, we faced Iselle. Fortunately, this year, the hurricane did not affect us much, and the 19th annual Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Golf Tournament proceeded as scheduled.

On August 13th 195 golfers gathered at the Ala Wai Golf Course for some friendly competition. They were reward-

ed with a bag of rice and a goodie bag before they even hit the first ball. Team prizes included an overnight stay at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, courtesy of Kyo-Ya Resorts, a Ping driver, a Ping putter, and gift certificates to a variety of restaurants. Door prizes included two trips to Las Vegas, a 42-inch TV, and a \$250 gift certificate to Pro-Am. One exciting event was a hole-in-one on hole #2 by Albert Kamakura. For his accomplishment, he won a trip to Las Vegas.

The golfers and volunteers enjoyed a sandwich with chips and macadamia nut chocolates for lunch and a delicious buffet dinner, provided by Fat Boys at the Ala Wai.

Thanks to all of the generous donors, sponsors, and golfers, the successful golf tournament netted \$25,000, which will benefit the youth programs at Hawaii Betsuin. A warm mahalo goes to the 36 volunteers who put together goodie bags, checked in the golfers, manned the par 3 holes, served drinks and snacks, served as MC, and purchased, transported, and set up the prizes. Another big mahalo goes to all of the golfers, the regulars and those who joined us for the first time. Finally, the biggest thank you goes to the energetic and devoted chairperson, Melvyn Kawahara.

Leaving you with a cliffhanger – what will be in store for the golfers at the 20th anniversary of the golf tournament?

**Our apologies to the Betsuin Golf Tournament Committee: This article should have been in the October 2015 Goji.**

## Betsuin's Matching Campaign for PBA Raises Over \$110,000

Betsuin First Vice President Roy Miyamoto presented Pacific Buddhist Academy's Head of School Josh Hernandez Morse and Director of Advancement Rüdiger Rückmann with a super-sized symbolic check for \$110,163.94 at our Eitai-kyo service on November 15. The funds support PBA's capital fundraising initiative to build its first classroom building on the temple campus. The total figure reflects donations from Betsuin members matched by an equivalent amount from an existing temple fund dedicated to education.

"I'm overwhelmed by the size of the gift from the Betsuin," said Hernandez Morse, "but I can't say that I'm surprised. Temple communities from across the islands have given us enormous support. PBA would not exist without the support of the church members. The Betsuin's gift is especially touching

because more than \$50,000 of the funds come directly from individual members of the Betsuin. It's simply wonderful."

Roy noted that the capital campaign will enable PBA to double its enrollment, increase its tuition revenue, and help maintain the vitality of Hongwanji in Hawaii by bringing Jodo Shinshu Buddhist values to more young people.

This latest Betsuin effort to assist PBA was inspired by the resolution submitted by the State Ministers Association encouraging all temple communities to support the school's capital

campaign. The resolution passed at last February's Giseikai.

The check presentation follows a major announcement that Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha (headquarters in Kyoto) pledged an additional ¥250,000,000, or about \$2 million, for PBA's capital campaign. Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha had donated ¥50,000,000, or about \$400,000, for the capital campaign in July.



## Dharma School News

### Pumpkins, Dharma and Fun - Sunday, October 18

Submitted by Debbie Kubota

In the foothills of the scenic Koolau Mountains at Waimanalo Country Farms, over 85 Honolulu Dharma School students, families and Jr. YBA members enjoyed wandering through a sunflower maze, riding on a mini train, chunking pumpkins with a sling shot, petting goats and piglets at an animal farm, and picking out pumpkins for carving.

The event started out with a morning service at Kailua High School, conducted by Reverend Yuika Hasebe. Then everyone boarded buses to the farm. Some teachers and family members remained at the school, prepping lunch and activities for the group's return.

After fun at the farm, the group returned to carve their pumpkins, enjoy activities sponsored by the Betsuin PTO (making marshmallow/pretzel spiders and getting temporary tattoos), and eat an onolicious chili/rice and chili dog lunch.

A pumpkin carving contest was held



with judging done by Reverend Umitani, Reverend Kamuro and Reverend Hasebe. All of the contest winners were from the Betsuin Dharma School:

Most Compassionate: Miyaka Nishihira  
 Most Scary: Randi and Royce Shioi  
 Most Silly: Amy Yonamine

What a fun event for all! Please join us for more fun and festivities throughout our Dharma School Year.

## Project Dana Dancers continued from page 6

Party at the Pagoda, the Mayor's 44<sup>th</sup> Senior Recognition Program, Project Dana's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, and Project Dana's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Dole Cannery Pomaika'i ballroom.

The Project Dana Dancers, energetic and enthusiastic, owe their existence to dedicated "sisters" present and past. Currently, there are 18 dancers, whose ages span 20 years! The dancers are: Miyo Sato, Kimiyo Miyose, Peggy Shintaku, Alice Omura,

Carol Yamamoto, Irene Ida, Thelma Kawaguchi, Jane Hamaji, Amy Hirohata-Goto, Gerri Hatada, Norreen Kawachika, Joan Nakamoto, Barbara Brennan, Annette Sekine, Sharyn Sekine, Gayle Fukunaga, Wendie Yumori, and me.

The "past" sisters included: \*Ayako Taketa, Project Dana Coordinator of Volunteers and teacher, Terry Fujioka, Sue Koizumi, Grace Zukeran, \*Margaret Iizaki, Chizuko

Kawamoto, Violet Muraoka, Sue Ide, Hatsue Goda, Yaeko Kobayashi, \*Blanche Sawamura, May Okazaki, Ethel Kitagawa, Marian Kikuchi, \*Barbara Kodama, Sandy Touchi, Grace Kitagawa, and Pauline Nagata.

I would like to thank these ladies for their great dedication and hard work.

\*deceased



## BETSUIN GIRL SCOUTS Christmas Cards for Tohoku

Jayne Hirata

This August while on a visit to Tokyo, my son and I attended a fundraiser to support the Koni-Santa Project, an annual toy drive organized by sumo wrestler Konishiki aka Sale Atisanoe aka Koni-Santa, the Konishiki Kids Foundation and Koni-Santa's helpers, many of whom are also former Hawaii residents.

At the fundraiser, Konishiki told us he first travelled to the Tohoku area with a caravan of volunteers shortly after the March 11, 2011 earthquake to bring a little bit of Aloha to the people coping with the devastation. The group visited temporary shelters where they cooked pots of curry stew, played ukulele, danced hula and just sat and talked story. Konishiki was particularly touched by the children he met there and was determined to make their first post-earthquake Christmas a very merry one, and the Koni-Santa Project was born. Konishiki explained that every year since 2011, the Koni-Santa Project has provided over 3,000 wrapped Christmas presents to boys and girls living in orphan-

ages and temporary housing in Fukushima, Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures. The gifts are pur-

chased through the generosity of individual and corporate donors and volunteers meet every week at the Oakwood Premium Hotel in Roppongi to unpack, wrap and pack them in time for

Koni-Santa to deliver them in mid-December (yes, you can volunteer if you are visiting Tokyo).

Hearing everyone's stories about their visits to Tohoku throughout the years, my son and I were inspired to become

part of the Koni-Santa team by collecting 3,000 handmade Christmas cards to accompany each present.

With only two months to do this, I put out a call for help to our friends and family which, thankfully, was answered very quickly and wholeheartedly.

Two of those who responded were friends with ties to Hongwanji, Jacqueline "Jackie" Furuta and Irene Nohara, both of whom took bags of several hundred blank white cards. The Hongwanji Mission School, Hongwanji Dharma School, Honpa Girl Scouts

(Troops 844, 287, 185, 383, and 415), and the Cub Scouts Pack 49 all responded to the pleas for help.

A few weeks later, I received nearly

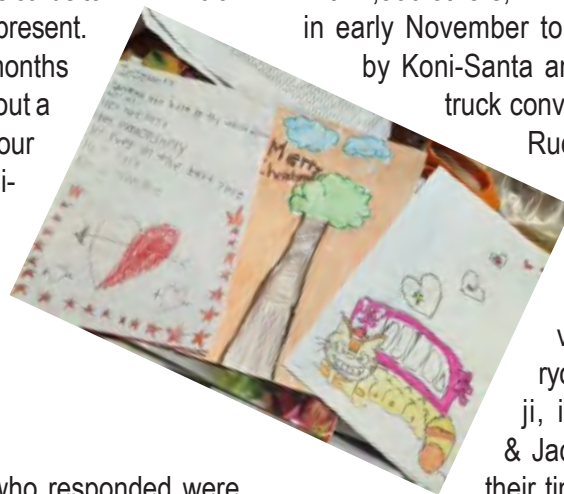
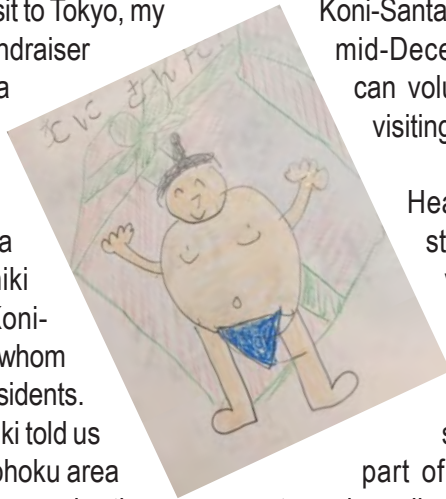
500 Christmas cards from the Hongwanji 'ohana. It was clear that every artist had the Tohoku children in their hearts and minds as they worked, as each card was unique and filled with creative joy. Drawings of Christmas motifs such as trees, reindeer and elves as well as Pikachu, Hello Kitty and Santas in Aloha shirts adorned the card fronts while personalized messages of encouragement were written in Japanese in the card interiors. One student even made a sumotori card for Koni-Santa himself. These Hongwanji cards, along with 2,500 others, will be sent to Tokyo in early November to be transported

by Koni-Santa and friends via a truck convoy rather than a Rudolph led sleigh in early December.

Thank you so very much to everyone at Hongwanji, including Irene & Jackie, for sharing their time and talent to support the Koni-Santa

Project and for surely bringing a smile to the face of a child in Fukushima, Iwate and Miyagi this Christmas 2015. It is my hope that we will be able to send Christmas cards from Hawaii to the kids in Tohoku for many years to come (but in the future, that we'll have more than two months to get all 3,000 done).

If you would like to know more about the Koni-Santa Project, there are several videos of previous Christmas visits to Tohoku as well as preparations for 2015 on Konishiki's YouTube channel, Konishikisworld.



## Betsuin Directors and Officers Approved for 2016-2017

On November 15, Betsuin members remained in the hondo to approve a slate of candidates for our temple's board of directors for 2016-2017. Sign-in sheets recorded 49 members in attendance (quorum is 30).

Anticipating approval of amendments to the bylaws to be voted on at our annual membership meeting on Saturday, January 30, the nominating committee intentionally left vacant the positions of Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, 3 Auditors, and 16 Directors. (Those positions would be eliminated by the amendments.) Added would be the position of President Elect.

The proposed amendments would further streamline our board structure

into a single board that meets monthly, rather than an executive board and a full board. (The officers would still meet as an Executive Committee but only as needed.)

As of this writing there are no candidates for the position of President for 2016-2017. Unless we elect a President via a special election at the annual meeting, the most likely scenario is that the vice presidents will sequentially serve as Acting President on an interim basis.

For all other positions, a single candidate was proposed. There were no objections or nominations for officer positions from the floor, making a formal vote of the membership unnecessary. First Vice President Roy

Miyamoto directed David Atcheson, as Secretary, to cast an elective ballot in favor of each candidate as presented in the slate.

For a link to the 2016-2017 approved slate, visit <http://hawaii.betsuin.org/board/>.

Please join us as we  
bid a fond aloha to  
our Rimban,  
Rev. Muneto,  
on the occasion  
of his retirement!  
Farewell  
Luncheon  
Sunday  
December 20, 2015  
in the social hall!

## Please March in the 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will once again be participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. We hope that BWA members, dharma school students and teachers, PBA faculty, staff and students, temple members and families will join us in honoring this man who was certainly an advocate for Embracing Change.

Date: Monday, January 18th

Time: Meet at Magic Island between 7:30 and 8:00 am.

Parade begins at 9:00

Wear: purple or Hongwanji shirt

Route: Magic Island to Kapiolani Park

The Pacific Buddhist Academy has generously offered to drive a bus to accommodate those who cannot walk the route.

In past years, we have handed out origami cranes along the parade route. We would appreciate donations of cranes for this event. It really helps us to connect to the bystanders.

Please join us... it's a lot of fun!



### BLOOD DRIVE



**Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin**

**Saturday, December 12**  
**7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Main Social Hall**

**To schedule your donation contact**  
**Cheryl Sora at 382-9561**  
**cheryl.sora@gmail.com**

**Miki Saito at 221-0137**  
**Saito.miki.t@gmail.com**



**Blood Bank of Hawaii**  
Give Blood. It's Safe. It's Simple. It Saves Lives.

Please bring a valid photo I.D. with birthdate | Be sure to eat well and drink plenty of fluids before donating  
Drive date, time and location are subject to change



## BOY SCOUT TROOP 49

### Colin Kubota's Eagle Scout Service Project

Joanne Ebesu

Colin Kubota is 17 years old and currently a freshman at Seattle University. He has been in Scouting for 12 years. Some of the extracurricular activities that he is involved in outside of Scouting are Jr. YBA (Young Buddhists Association), Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Taiko Group, club soccer, and attending Hawaii Betsuin services.

Colin came up with the idea for his Eagle Project when he was at a Buddhist church in Los Angeles, CA. The church had a peace garden, and his parents and he thought it would be a good idea for their church back home to have one. Colin's Eagle Scout Service Project consisted of refurbishing the wooden railings and metal posts on the stairs to the Annex Temple, as well as landscaping the outside yard area on the sides of the stairs. The landscaping included removing plants, planting new ones, filling in the area with gravel, and refurbishing the fish ponds.

Some of the challenges that Colin faced with his Eagle Project were

communication and coordination. For communicating, he had to stay in contact with the Church, keeping them updated on the project plan, communicate with all of the various donors so he could coordinate when and where to pick up the materials, and communicate with the 53 volunteers during his project. Colin struggled with delegating duties to the Scouts and parent volunteers, and he learned that an Eagle Project requires a lot of hard work. There are a lot of little things that one doesn't see until the project gets closer.

Some of the leadership positions that Colin has held as a Scout were Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. The most valuable lesson he learned from Scouting was to take any opportunity that he had. He has had the opportunity to travel to many places through Scouting, and is glad he was able to participate in hiking through the Rocky Mountains, the Na Pali Coast on Kauai, Mauna Kea, and touring around California. The

accomplishments that he is proud of are completing all of these backpacking trips. They were not easy, hiking through difficult terrain with a 40-50 lb. backpack. Throughout Scouting Colin has hiked over 200 miles of various terrain, and he is proud to say that Scouting gave him that opportunity.

Colin almost wasn't able to complete his Eagle Project, but he is glad that he did. It took a lot of work, more than he expected, but he persevered and made it. Colin is really grateful to have gone through Scouting. It is a journey that he will never forget, making friends, traveling places, and learning life lessons.

Colin would like to thank his parents for always supporting him and pushing him to finish his Eagle Project, and for their unconditional love. He would also like to thank all of the Scout Leaders for being with him all the way from the start to the end. They always supported the Troop, and he could not have asked for a better group to be with. Colin would like to thank all of the Scouts in the Troop for an amazing journey and for their help at his project, and finally all of the parents of the Scouts for also supporting him at his project.

Colin's plan for the future includes graduating from Seattle University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. After that, he plans to return home and join the Honolulu Police Department and ultimately join the FBI, as well as helping out the Troop when he can.

## Scouts to Make Kadomatsu

Albert Wong

Boy Scout Troop 49 will be busy making various sizes of Kadomatsu this month. Pickup dates are Sundays, December 20th and 27th. Donations will be accepted. Please make checks payable to Boy Scout Troop 49. As always your generous support of this event will be appreciated. Funds collected will be donated to the Temple.

We are requesting donations of black pine branches to be used in the Kadomatsu. Please get in touch with Albert Wong by leaving a message at the Temple's business office.



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

5 Rev. Ryoso Toshima  
12 Rimban Tatsuo Muneto  
19 Rev. Ryoso Toshima  
26 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

**Betsuin Services  
Asaji Service 8 am**

06 HBC Bodhi Day  
13 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio  
20 Rev. Yuika Hasebe  
27 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

**Adult English Services  
10:00 AM**

06 HBC Bodhi Day  
13 Rev. Tatsuo Muneto  
20 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann  
27 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

**Dec. 31, 2015 at 11:00 pm  
(New Year's Eve)**

Japanese: Rev. Yuika Hasebe  
English: Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

**Jan. 1, 2016 at 10:00 am  
(New Year's Day)**

Japanese: Rev. Toyokazu Hagio  
English: Bishop Eric Matsumoto

**Dharma School  
9:00 AM**

06 HBC Bodhi Day  
13 Rev. Arthur Kaufmann  
20 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka  
27 No Dharma School

# In Memoriam



# OCTOBER 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

- 9 ARINAGA, Ayano (97)
- 9 JONES, Louise Motoko Miyasato (59)
- 9 TAKESHITA, Stanley Shoichi (79)
- 9 TERUYA, Fred Shinichi (74)
- 10 SUMIDA, Yaeko (94)
- 14 MURAOKA, Clarence Katsumi (92)
- 14 TAKAMURA, Naoki (96)
- 19 TSUKAMOTO, Dorothy Sadako (99)
- 22 MOENAHELE, Kiku (84)
- 25 MATSUSHIMA, Helen Haruyo (83)
- 26 OKAZAKI, Hatsuko (98)
- 27 YOKOYAMA, Toshiaki (86)
- 28 HAMAMURA, Asae (100)
- 28 YAMANAKA, Charles Tsutomu (83)

## 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

## Nursing Home Services

03 Hale Nani Rev. Tomioka	11 Hale Pulama Mau
Hale Ho Aloha	Rev. Kaufmann
Rev. Kaufmann	24 Nuuanu Hale
10 Maluhia – Rev. Hasebe	Rev. Tomioka
Liliha – Rev. Hagio	25 Leahi – No service



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