

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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APRIL 2014

ALOHA LUNCHEON FOR MR. ALTON MIYAMOTO, HAWAII KYODAN OUTGOING PRESIDENT & MR. PIEPER TOYAMA, HAWAII KYODAN INCOMING PRESIDENT

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will hold an Aloha Luncheon to honor and extend our deep appreciation to Mr. Alton Miyamoto who had provided a wonderful leadership as the President of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii during the past 6 years, and to welcome Mr. Pieper Toyama as our newly installed President of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2014

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Place: Ala Moana Hotel, Garden Lanai Room

Attire: Aloha

Registration Fee: \$35.00 per person

Registration deadline: April 30, 2014 (no refunds after this date)

SPECIAL REQUEST: Both Mr. Miyamoto and Mr. Toyama request that in lieu of any leis and gifts, donations be made directly to "Pacific Buddhist Academy".

The registration form was sent to the temple ministers and presidents. Each temple is requested to disseminate the information and obtain payment from interested participants. The temple is then requested to submit one check to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii accompanied by the names of participants (attention to Dianne Sumida). The seating is limited so please register early.

YBICSE 2014

The Young Buddhist's International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) is an annual program for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. The basic purpose of this program is to expose young people to Jodo Shinshu beyond Hawaii and to share their joy of living in the Nembutsu teaching by visiting temples and meeting with fellow Shin Buddhists who appreciate the Nembutsu Dharma.

Candidate Qualification: Active Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, Currently in 9th grade up to age 25 in good health

Date of trip: July 9, 2014 – July 20, 2014

Cost of the trip: \$1,600.00 per participant

Destination: Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) & Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC)

Application deadline: April 30, 2014

For more information, please contact Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani at hqs@honpahi.org.

PBA GRADUTATION

PBA Baccalaureate Service will be held on May 8, 2014, 6:00pm at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo.

NUMATA CONFERENCE - "Violence, Nonviolence, and Japanese Religions"

The Numata Conference in Buddhist Studies was held on March 20 to 21, 2014. Besides bringing together twenty scholars of various disciplines together from around the world to discuss the causes of violence and the conditions for nonviolence it also fulfilled some other important functions:

1. Honored the theme of Peace for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's 125th Anniversary;
2. Engaged young people from UH and PBA;
3. With the help of Janet Honda, the BWA Federation president we involved its members in a community outreach project;
4. Explore the concept of creating an opportunity for the larger community to interact with scholars of mixed disciplines to address ways in improving community and society;
5. Created a venue for discussions on causes of violence and possible steps to nonviolence bringing in scholars from throughout the world.
6. Gave scholars from Ryukoku University this additional opportunity to interact with scholars they would not regularly interact with opening up the possibility of expanding their horizons and perspectives.

The concept and vision was created by Dr. Michel Mohr, chairperson of the UH Religion Department and the BSC and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii served as the implementer of the vision. Dr. Mohr was able to secure major funding from the Numata Foundation-BDK so that all major expenses like airfare, lodgings and book publication would be paid for. Working with the BSC we also received support from the Henry R. Milander Fund and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Social Concerns Committee. The East-West Center served as the venue for the conference. The primary planner and mover for the conference was Glenn Hamamura, Vice-President of the Hawaii Kyodan and the Master of Ceremonies was Pieper Toyama, President of the Hawaii Kyodan. Special guests to the opening reception were Governor Neil Abercrombie and Japan Counsel General Toyoei Shigeeda and his wife Michiko Shigeeda.

During the two-day proceedings an average of about one hundred people attended the conference with attendance varying for specific presentations from about twenty-five to over one hundred.

-Olelo Broadcast 53-

Keynote Address by Dr. David Loy on "The Interdependence of Violence: A Buddhist Perspective"

Date & Time: May 14 (7pm), May 18 (10am), May 19 (5pm), May 20 (10am)

Session A includes talks covering Psychological and Applied Dimensions:

Date & Time: May 28 (6pm), June 23 (1pm), June 29 (12pm), June 30 (3pm)

Session B includes talks covering The Premodern Roots of Violence:

Date & Time: June 9 (2pm), June 16 (2pm), June 23 (4pm), June 29 (8pm)



Y.E.S.S. Camp XXXI: Namandab-U

On February 15-17, 2014, YESS Camp XXXI was held at Camp Timberline. It is a camp held every year around the beginning of Spring in February/March to allow youth members (from 8th grade to age 23) to learn and discuss the dharma, talk among people their age, interacting with ministers, and also a weekend of fun.

This year's theme for YESS Camp was 'Namandab-U', which stood for Namandab University. We based the theme off of a Pixar movie, 'Monsters-U', that basically was about the college experience, making new friends, learning, interacting with different people, and voicing opinions. Like 'Monsters-U', we wanted to create a safe environment for the campers to be able to speak from their heart and also have fun at the same time.



Camp started off at Aiea Hongwanji where the counselors put on a skit for the campers about going to college and making new friends. After having lunch, we drove up to Camp Timberline where the real camp festivities started. We had a huge campfire Friday evening with lots of games, camper skits, and s'mores. On Saturday we put the campers creativity and sewing abilities to the test and made quilts to send to the Philippines for our Special Interest Project. That evening we had a dance and candlelight ceremony where the counselors got to share their experiences about camp. At closing service, the counselors presented each camper with a diploma for making it through YESS Camp XXXI.

A memorable moment of camp is always the candle light ceremony and closing service. Candlelight is where the counselors get a chance to share their thoughts and feelings about camp and where everyone is connected by one flame travelling around the circle. At the end of candlelight ceremony, we have a tradition of a 'hug train' where everyone goes around the circle hugging each person, saying a few words of thanks and friendship. Closing service is a time for the campers to share their experience at camp. To go with the theme, we had a graduation ceremony this year to celebrate everything that we accomplished together over the weekend. The closing service can get emotional, but that's normally a good sign that we all really enjoy ourselves over the weekend.

We were lucky to have many different guests come to camp with us. We would like to extend our warm appreciation to Rev. Bert Sumikawa for being our guest speaker. As co-chairs, we had the amazing opportunity to grow as leaders and find that fine balance between motivating and over-reaching. For almost a year, our staff and counselors were patient with us and gave us their all, despite their busy lives. Y.E.S.S. Camp would not have been possible without their commitment and hard work. And we, as co-chairs, would not have survived without their support because as a team, the counselors and staff were able to put our strengths together and look out for each other so that we will still be strong, even when we make mistakes.

Of course, we could not have done it without Jake Chang, our leader, mentor, advisor, boss and friend. He provided us the support to find the vision for camp so that we could create the kind of experience that we wanted for the staff and campers. We are so grateful for him and his confidence in us means the world.

And finally, thank you very much to the Hongwanji for your continued support of this program. Through fundraisers and helping us to spread the word about camp, the Hongwanji Sangha has invested in the future. We hope that we were able to pass the experience down to the campers and that they had a memorable weekend. It was a long journey but in the end, if all the campers, counselors and staff had a wonderful time, made or strengthened connections and learned something new, then Y.E.S.S. Camp XXXI was a success!

In Gassho,
Lacy Tsutsuse and Emi Hashi
Y.E.S.S. Camp XXXI Co-chairs

CONDOLENCE

Mr. Larry Bunji Nakamoto, a member of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on March 31, 2014. Being a charter member of Sudhana Fellowship, Mr. Nakamoto dedicated his life in establishing Hawaii Betsuin's adult group, and acted as a temple liaison to Boy Scout Program. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of SEN-SHU-IN 専修院 which means "the one who wholeheartedly devoted himself to helping others" was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

END OF LIFE COMMITTEE

The End of Life Committee plans to expand the scope and focus of its program in response to requests by sangha members. Small group meetings are being planned to provide a unique opportunity for sharing experiences and concerns beginning in May. Joel Merchant will be the facilitator for these meetings.

There are important benefits having small group discussions:

- Group members will discuss issues related to end of life and aging with dignity – issues which are different for everybody. Small groups make it possible for members to reflect on shared concerns and what their stories have in common. A facilitator will attend all five sessions of the group.
- Groups will be limited to 10 people, providing the opportunity to know others, learn, and share each other's stories.
- Each group will meet five times over an 8-10 week period, making it possible for members to discuss issues in depth, rather than limit conversation to a single meeting.
- Groups will meet in a safe, comfortable, quiet, convivial setting – which encourages serious, reflective conversations about important issues.
- Groups respect the idea of listening without judgment, as members make important decisions.

The goal of small group conversations: connect people and resources; review advance care planning; discuss family experience with elder care, hospice care, wills and trusts, advanced directives; create opportunities for participation; share responses to articles, books and videos; make choices and decisions about end-of-life issues and aging with dignity. A flyer with more details including contact information and registration will be sent to the local Hongwanji Temples at the end of April. If you are interested, please inquire at your local Hongwanji Temple for more information.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was invited on April 8th to attend a Community Roundtable with the Hawaii Regional Interagency Working Group of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders held at UH Manoa's East West Center, Keoni Auditorium.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto who attended on behalf of Hawaii Kyodan learned that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing racial group in the country and by 2050 is projected to represent 10% of the entire US population. Further in Hawaii, the AAPI community in Hawaii already makes up close to 50% of the population of the State. At this Roundtable key issues facing the AAPI community and federal programs and services were discussed.

The Keynote Address was given by Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who shared the Initiatives priorities. Other presenters were staff from US Department of Labor, US Department of Homeland Security, US Department of Veterans, US Department of Health and Human Services, US Social Security Administration and US Small Business Administration. A goal of the Roundtable was to provide an opportunity for people of the community to engage in dialogue with federal officials from Hawaii about how agencies can address the community's needs.