

# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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MAY 2014

### ALOHA LUNCHEON

A special luncheon to honor and extend our appreciation to Mr. Alton Miyamoto and Mr. Pieper Toyama was held on May 10, 2014 at the Ala Moana Hotel. Mr. Alton Miyamoto served as the President of HHMH during the past 6 years, and Mr. Pieper Toyama was newly installed as the President of HHMH since February 8, 2014. Following is the message delivered by Mr. Pieper Toyama at the luncheon.



#### Address Delivered By Mr. Pieper Toyama

Thank you everyone for your presence here today. Alton and I are deeply appreciative of your support.

This afternoon I would like to take this occasion to outline the four priorities I have set for myself as I enter this office of the presidency of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

First, I intend to solidify gains made by Alton's leadership over the last six years.

My second priority is to support ministers and lay members in their efforts to experience the working and importance of Namo Amida Butsu in their daily lives. To this end, I would like to explore simpler ways of understanding and articulating how the Nembutsu is connected to our everyday experiences whether they be bad or good, sad or happy, depressing or exhilarating. I would also like to explore ways for us to more fully experience the profound effects of the gratitude that calls forth the Nembutsu to our lips. Western psychology is only now beginning to uncover the psychological, emotional, and spiritual effects of the gratitude experience and I would like to relate that research to Shinran's teachings to strengthen our message and make it relevant to new generations of followers and prospective followers.

My third priority is to explore ways in which to support our ministers and the bishop so they will be able to more fully meet the personal needs of members and the organizational needs of their temples and the kyodan. I would like to work directly with ministers, the office of the bishop, the Kyodan personnel committee, and temples to insure that they are compensated adequately now and into the future for the work that they do; that they understand their benefits to which they are entitled so they can plan for their respective futures; that the conditions under which they work allow them to actively participate in the raising of their families; and that they are afforded opportunities and means to maintain their physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

The fourth priority is to facilitate organizational changes in two areas to make our religion more responsive to the needs of the members as well as the needs of temples to better sustain themselves and more responsive to the suffering and inequality that plague our communities.

As an introduction to the first organizational change I would like to pursue, let me list the various components in our current structure that govern our organization. The structure includes Giseikai, the Kyodan board, its officers, commissions and committees, by-laws, district organizations, the lay association, budgets, policies and procedures, tradition, temple politics, the Ministers Association, Sanmu-Kanji, the Office of the Bishop, and

Honzan. Many will agree that this structure is slow to develop and implement change. That is why my priority for the first organizational change is to find ways to streamline our structure so we can deal with governance issues and developmental issues through quicker but more thorough research, discussions, and actions. I plan to share more details of my thoughts for approaching this challenge of bringing our structure in line with the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century after I assess the lay members', the bishop's, and ministers' appetite and readiness for change. I welcome any thoughts on this priority from members and ministers. I am sure there are many out there who have been mulling about our structure for years. This is your chance to weigh in.

The second organizational change I would like to explore is the development of an additional path completely outside of the established structure (which I outlined previously) for people, especially young people, with good and creative ideas to enter into the process of change. I would like to provide a path for them to not only articulate their ideas but also a path for them to engage in the implementation of their ideas. This path will be designed so any two or more people who share a good idea and the enthusiasm, commitment, and creativity to articulate that idea can find a path to implementation with ease. I have worked out an outline of this path and would like to meet with the minister's association and each district to introduce it before presenting it the Kyodan Board in August.

If anything I have said in the last few minutes makes you want to jump out of your chair and support these priorities, let me know. Let's get started. Again thank you for your support and the honor of this position.

Submitted by  
Pieper J. Toyama  
[ptoyama@honpahi.org](mailto:ptoyama@honpahi.org)

## CONDOLENCE

**Mrs. Shimeji Kanazawa**, a member of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission, passed away on April 7, 2014. Mrs. Kanazawa was the co-founders of the Project Dana, and while serving as a Trustee and Treasurer of the National Federation of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. She chaired the Project Dana Advisory Council for 13 years and has a title of Chair Emerita of Project Dana. In 1999, she was selected as a Living Treasure of Hawaii by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of KO-SE-IN 広施院 which means "the one who universally benefitted countless others" was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto and presented at the Funeral Service on May 5, 2014.

## NEW FIVE YEAR THEME AND SLOGANS

The Commission on Buddhist Education set the new five year theme and slogans of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

### **2015 – Embrace Change: Awareness (Seek Opportunities)**

We seek AWARENESS of our current situation and seek opportunities as a result of our understanding of ourselves, our community, and our needs.

### **2016 – Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)**

We create a NEW VISION with plans for the future, and create engagements with our members and the community.

### **2017 – Embrace Change: Action (Open Communication)**

We take ACTION to implement our plans for our temples, ensuring open communication to engage all stakeholders.

### **2018 – Embrace Change: Harmony (Accept Differences)**

While we are changing, we seek HARMONY and accept differences as we move towards our vision.

### **2019 – Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)**

Although the work will never be fully completed, we reflect on our TRANSFORMATION which helps us walk in peace.

## HHMH 125<sup>th</sup> – HONOLULU DISTRICT CELEBRATION

The temple ministers, members, and friends in the Honolulu District gathered together at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on April 27, 2014 to celebrate their district's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Bishop Eric Matsumoto led the service and delivered his message focusing on "gratitude" as a motivational force. We were truly grateful to have the Governor Neil Abercrombie and the Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative Ms. Georgette Deemer join in the service.



## STATE MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION SEMINAR

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Honpa Hongwanji State Ministers' Association seminar will be held on June 17-19, 2014 on the island of Maui hosted by Maui District Ministers' Association. The theme of the seminar is "Return to the Source". Honzan is kindly dispatching Professor Masahiro Asada of Ryukoku University as the special lecturer of this seminar.

## JR. YBA STATE CONVENTION

The Hawaii Federation of Junior Young Buddhist Associations will be holding its 57<sup>th</sup> State Jr. YBA Convention on June 27 through June 29, 2014 at the Lihue Honpa Hongwanji Mission and Kauai Beach Resort hosted by the United Jr. YBA of Kauai. The theme of this year's convention is "Think Outside the State: Become a Global Citizen"

## BSC SUMMER SESSION 2014

The Buddhist Study Center will be holding the Summer Session on July 28 through August 1, 2014 (No weekend sessions). Reverend Marvin Harada from the Orange County Buddhist Church will be giving a lecture titled, "Resolving Life's Problems through Buddhism". **For more detailed information and registration, please see the attached file.**

## FEDERATION BWA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PAN-PACIFIC PARADE

The Federation BWA would like to invite all temple members and friends to join us as we march in the Pan-Pacific Festival Parade. The parade will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 pm. This is Father's Day. What better way to show your pride in your fathers and husbands than to show them off in a parade?!

We will meet at Ft. DeRussy at 4:00 P.M. The streets will close at 4:15. From Ft. DeRussy, we will march to Kapiolani Park. Please wear your temple, BWA, or purple shirt. See your temple BWA president for more details.

## YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT 6

This year's Young Adults Retreat will be held on August 8-11 at Camp Kokokahi in Oahu. Please find the application form attached.

The Young Adults Retreat is a retreat for 18-35 year olds interested in learning about or continuing their experience with Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Over the course of the retreat, participants will not only learn about Buddhism, but also get to learn some culture as well as a little about themselves. There will be fun games and activities for participants to either develop new friendships or build upon the ones they may already have. If there are any questions, please contact Jake Chang at [youth@honpahi.org](mailto:youth@honpahi.org).

## 28<sup>th</sup> MINISTERS' WIVES SEMINAR

On April 18-19, 2014, 12 minister wives gathered for the annual seminar. The seminar was co-chaired by Mrs. Irene Nakamoto & Mrs. Myra Ikeda. Although Mrs. Ikeda moved to BCA before the seminar, they planned well and prepared for the Seminar with other Honolulu ministers' wives. First, we visited the beautiful Kailua Hongwanji which recently finished the construction of their new temple building. We appreciate the Kailua Hongwanji BWA ladies who welcomed us warmly with delicious refreshments and President Mr. Keiji Kukino who explained about Kailua Hongwanji's history. Rev. David Nakamoto gave us a very meaningful Dharma talk.

Afterwards, we went to Kahuku Farm to see local products of Hawaii and the Mormon Tabernacle to learn about another religion. We had a good discussion about our Association at our meeting at Moiliili Hongwanji. The barbecue dinner and Italian lunch we had were so tasty and fun. We are grateful to Hawaii Kyodan and each temple for giving us this wonderful opportunity. Annual seminar is essential for us to strengthen the mutual bound among the members and to educate ourselves as Hongwanji Ministers' Wives. We hope we can bring back what we had learned at this seminar to our temples. Thank you again for supporting this program. (Yoshiko Umitani)



## PACIFIC BUDDHIST ACADEMY GRADUATION



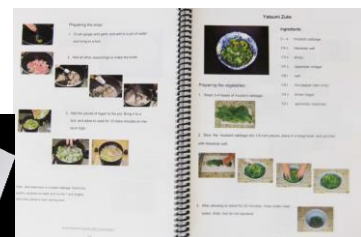
Baccalaureate Service at Honpa Hongwanji  
Hawaii Betsuin on May 8, 2014



Commencement Exercises at Japanese  
Cultural Center of Hawaii on May 9, 2014

## NEW HBC COOKBOOK

Hawaii Buddhist Council Cookbook Vol.2 is available at the Bookstore. Volume 2 has more recipes of popular dishes and even more pictures illustrating the preparation steps. Please contact the Bookstore at 808-522-9202.





Pacific Buddhist Academy  
*High school in a whole new light.*

1710 Pali Highway  
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May 16, 2014

Dear PBA School Community,

Rob Cody has accepted a position as Assistant Head of School at an international school in Doha, Qatar starting August 1, 2014. His last day at PBA will be June 27, 2014.

Rob will continue as the PBA Head of School until June 27. He will work closely with the Board of Trustees to ensure that all school functions continue to be handled appropriately and to provide for a smooth transition to new leadership. The Board expects to appoint a strong and capable Interim Head of School who will lead PBA while an expedited search is conducted for a permanent Head of School. During this interim period, the Board will offer its complete support and attention to ensure continued progress on the new building, fundraising, and student recruitment.

The search for our new Head of School will be conducted with urgency, but in a comprehensive and careful manner, and with the Board's commitment to naming the best possible leader for the school. Ideally, the new Head will be appointed by the time school is back in session in early August, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board will consult with members of the school community during the search for the new Head of School and will keep them informed of the progress of the search.

The Board congratulates Rob on this wonderful opportunity to help lead a school in the Middle East. Rob's wife, Kelli, has also accepted a position in Qatar and looks forward to teaching art there. Rob and his family developed a love for international education during their time in Cambodia, and they are pleased to be returning to an international school. Living in Qatar will provide them with unique opportunities to learn about the Middle East, meet new people, and travel.

The Board thanks Rob for his service to PBA and his commitment to the values of the school. We wish him well in his new position, and we hope that he and his family will carry our aloha with them to Qatar.

Joel Determan  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Pacific Buddhist Academy