Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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APRIL 2015

PRE-ORDINATION (PRE-TOKUDO) TRAINING PROGRAM

In anticipation of a Foreigner's Tokudo in 2016, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii suggests that Temple Leadership, in particular Temple Ministers, begin nurturing and training individuals who are interested in Tokudo or Ordination as Jodo Shinshu clergy.

A State Pre-Ordination (Pre-Tokudo) Training Session is planned for December 11-13, 2015 in Honolulu at the Buddhist Study Center for those who are officially enrolled in the Pre-Ordination Training Program. An official application needs to be submitted to be considered for acceptance into the Pre-Ordination Training Program and participation in the State Training Session. Successful completion of the State Pre-Ordination Session is required to be able to continue toward Tokudo or Ordination in 2016 for which a separate application is required.

The deadline for submission of applications for the Pre-Ordination Training Program is May 31, 2015. For those who are interested in the Pre-Ordination Program including the State Pre-Ordination Training Session and Ordination (Tokudo) Program, an informational session via teleconferencing will be held on April 27, 2015 from 7:00pm at the Buddhist Study Center. More information is forthcoming about the Informational Session.

For more information of the program and its application, please contact Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki of the Buddhist Study Center, 1436 University Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822, phone (808) 973-6555 or bscdir@honpahi.org.

YBICSE 2015

The Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) is an annual program for the young adults (from 9th grade to age 25) who appreciates the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. 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 the fellow Shin Buddhists form other countries who appreciate the Nembutsu Dharma.

This year's YBICSE will be held from July 12-24, 2015 sponsored by Honzan and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The participants will travel to Japan to attend the Honzan's program from July 15 to 23 where they will get to meet with other participants from Buddhist Churches of America, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, South America Hongwanji Mission, and Japan. It will be a great opportunity for the young Buddhists in Hawaii to visit our Mother Temple in Kyoto and to meet with new Jodo Shinshu friends from other districts.

The more detailed information of the program including its travel schedule and the application form can be obtained from your temple minister or can be found in the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Website at http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com/news_events/index.html. Cost of trip: $1,500.00. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani at (808) 522-9200 or hqs@honpahi.org. Application deadline is May 10, 2015.

JODO SHINSHU CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Almost 800 years have passed since Shinran revealed the teaching of Jodo Shinshu (Shin Buddhism) in Japan, following the path of Sakyamuni and other masters in India, China and Japan. The teaching, with deep reflection on human existence and the realization of dynamic Dharma, has fascinated many people around the world.

Thus, the practice of Jodo Shinshu does not remain solely in Japan, but has expanded to Hawaii, North America, South America, Asia, Europe, Australia and Africa. More people are learning about Jodo Shinshu through ministers' activities, publications and the internet. As one response to their growing interest, we have established a correspondence course providing them, especially those who do not have access to temples nearby, with basic knowledge of Jodo Shinshu.

In addition, this correspondence course also aims to provide those who have already joined Jodo Shinshu temples as members, with opportunities to deepen their understanding. This is achieved through Internet Communication with instructors regarding specific topics related to Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism in general. The correspondence course takes on a new challenge and plays an important role in transmitting the teaching to all people who are interested in Jodo Shinshu.

Registration period for the Fall 2015 Enrollment will be from May 1 to August 15, 2015. For more information, please go to http://jscc.cbe-bca.org/.

CALENDAR COMMITTEE

The HHMH Calendar Committee would like to invite the Hongwanji members and friends to provide creative works of art for the 2016 Hongwanji Calendar. The official announcement from the Calendar Committee is forthcoming. Please encourage each other and your various temple organizations to start thinking about ideas to submit your works of art such as photos, drawings, and poems. The Hongwanji theme and Slogan for the year 2016 is **"Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)".**

THE 15TH WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONVENTION IN CANADA

The 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC) will be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on May 30-31, 2015 sponsored by the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and hosted by the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation (JSBTCWF). The theme of the convention is "Embraced by the Oneness of Life" with a slogan of "One World Sangha" and approximately 2,000 delegates will be participating from Canada, BCA, South America, Hawaii, and Japan. The keynote speakers are Rev. Patricia Usuki of San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (in English) and Rev. Nana Yanase of the Kyō On Ji Temple in Nara Prefecture (in Japanese).

Mrs. Susan Huntley, the President of the JSBTCWF and the chairperson of the 2015 WBWC, wrote in her welcome message, "The convention is an opportunity for Jodo Shinshu followers of all ages to gather on an international scale; meet new people, learn together, share experiences and spread the circle of Dharma today and for generations to come."

From the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 99 people (68 BWA delegates, 21 Non-BWA members, and 10 ministers) will be attending the convention.

PBA GRADUATION

The Pacific Buddhist Academy will be holding its 9th Baccalaureate Ceremony on May 7, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo. The Ceremony will be officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto assisted by the ministers who will represent each district. 13 students will be graduating from PBA this year and they

are all accepted to the Colleges and Universities. The Commencement Exercise will be held on May 8, 2015 at 5:00 pm at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

PBA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Pacific Buddhist Academy's goal is to complete construction before December 2016.

- Construction Costs: PBA's Capital Campaign budget is $9 million for building construction costs, furnishing and equipment, and construction contingencies. The facility will provide ample classroom space to serve its current enrollment of 69 and to increase enrollment to 140.
- Fundraising Plan: PBA's goal is to complete fundraising by December 2015 and start construction as soon as fundraising is completed.
- Total amount left to raise: $2.8 million (We are continuing to raise funds in Hawaii, the continental United States, and Japan.) Recently over $200,000 in new pledges from a foundation and individuals in Hawaii have been received. New proposals to foundations and individuals have been made in the last several months.
- The Gagaku Concert presented by the Kinnara and Arpana Groups at the Hawaii Betsuin in December 2014 raised $3,000.
- "The Resolution Encouraging support for the current Pacific Buddhist Academy Capital Campaign for a new school building" was submitted from the Hawaii Honpa Hongwanji Ministers Association and was approved by the 103rd Legislative Assembly of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii on February 13-14, 2015. A letter of request was sent from Rev. Jay Shingo Okamoto, chair of the Honpa Hongwanji Ministers Association, to the Hongwanji Sanghas, affiliated organizations, and leaders. Several ministers have already stepped up and made their financial contributions to inspire additional donations and pledges.
- The PBA Café organized by Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto has brought in more than $6,000 since September.
- Ministers of the Honolulu District had a car wash on January 18. With support from PBA, they raised about $1,500.
- Kailua Hongwanji Mission has pledged $10,000.
- Very recently, members of Jikoen Hongwanji Mission made donations of nearly $1,000.
- Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to the many people who have made possible this new surge of momentum for our campaign.
- If you would like to make a donation to the Capital Campaign, please contact Mr. Rüdiger Rückmann at Rudiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org, 532-2649 or go to PBA's webpage at www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org.