



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

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APRIL 2018
NEWSLETTER
of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin
www.hawaiiibetsuin.org

2018 Slogan:
Embrace Change:
Harmony
(Accept Differences)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
Rev. Joshin Kamuro
Rev. Sol Kalu

A Very Special Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni Day! April 29, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Wendie Yumori



We know that Jodo Shinshu, the “True Teaching of the Pure Land Way,” was founded by Shinran Shonin but did you know that two women, Lady Eshin-ni, Shinran Shonin’s wife, and Lady Kakushin-ni, Shinran Shonin’s daughter, made invaluable contributions to the foundation of Jodo Shinshu? (Photo: a 600 year old Japanese magnolia tree is part of Lady Eshin-ni’s Memorial site in Niigata; it bears beautiful white flowers each spring.)

Lady Eshin-ni was extremely dedicated in her support of Shinran Shonin, as seen in her letters which were discovered in the archives of Hongwanji in 1921. She made it possible for him to commit his life to spreading and writing the Nembutsu Dharma. After Shinran Shonin’s passing, Lady Kakushin-ni wanted to keep his teachings alive. She built a small temple in Higashiyama, Kyoto to enshrine his ashes and portrait. As a result, the Nembutsu teachings began to reach more people. The temple grew and, about 50 years later, was named the “Hongwanji.” Because of Lady Eshin-ni’s and Lady Kakushin-ni’s vision and devotion in supporting Shinran and his teachings, the Hongwanji has transmitted the Nembutsu teachings for many, many generations.

Buddhist Women’s Associations around the world have long recognized the critical roles played by Lady Eshin-ni and Lady Kakushin-ni. The World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha BWA thus adopted the following resolutions through the years: 1967 (Honolulu Hawaii) Encourage BWA members to read “Letters of Eshin-ni” written by Lady Yoshiko Ohtani; 1978 (Sao Paulo, Brazil) Establish “Eshin-ni Day” service in April with donations of the day to support youth activities; 1986 (Kyoto, Japan) Designate “Eshin-ni Day” as World Peace Day; 2002 (Sao Paulo, Brazil) Celebrate and honor the life of Kakushin-ni.

This year, 2018, marks the 750th memorial of Lady Eshin-ni; a special memorial will be held in Kyoto for Lady Eshin-ni on April 13-14. At HI Betsuin, the Dharma School Ohana is busy planning a wonderful Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Day service for all of us. The service will be on Sunday, April 29, at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Toshikazu Arai will be the guest speaker. BWA members from other Honolulu units will join us for this service after which, everyone is warmly invited to partake in refreshments and enjoy musical entertainment in the social hall. Then Rev. Dr. Arai will offer a “Talk Story” session in the Annex Temple to BWA members and all who wish to participate. Following the “Talk Story,” BWA members will stay in the Annex Temple for their annual Honolulu United BWA General Membership Meeting.

We look forward to a meaningful and memorable day, April 29, honoring the legacies of Lady Eshin-ni and Lady Kakushin-ni!

Dharma Message, Rev. Joshin Kamuro “Life Toward the Pure Land”

Three months ago I watched a livestreamed lecture of Rev. Risho Ota at a Hoonko Service at the Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. He started his lecture with this quote “True listening is to identify clearly the meaning of life.” Then, he introduced a poem, “I decorate my room with a single flower; I continue again today on my journey to the Pure Land.” He continued, “Step by step on journey to the Pure Land is the meaning of life.” Today is the day leading to the Pure Land; today’s step is the step leading to the Land of Peace.

His lecture convinced me of my life’s purpose: to proceed toward the Pure

Land, which is one of the answers to the meaning of life. If we don’t know our destination and don’t have a place to which to return, while on our journey, we are not able to fully enjoy this moment because of anxiety about the future. However, if we know our destination and have a place to return to, we can continue on our journey with peace of mind and can fully enjoy the present moment. Moreover, we are able to walk on the path to the Pure Land with Amida Buddha, Shinran Shonin, our loved ones who are already there, and Jodo Shinshu followers who rejoice in the Nembutsu teaching now.

There is no loneliness, for I feel Shinran Shonin with me, walking together, when I sing the 2nd verse of “Hoonko

no Uta (In Praise of Shinran): By yourself in joy of dharma you are not alone, and when two of you rejoice in dharma, think that three do. When you find true happiness, there is one who smiles with you. And that caring presence is Shinran.” Shinran Shonin is with us, walking together on our journey to the Pure Land. Amida Buddha embraces and watches over us always. As we listen, our lives move toward the Pure Land. We are able to continue on our journey with peace of mind, step by step, each day. Let us continue to walk together toward the Land of Peace by reciting the Nembutsu, 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 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail (execdir@hawaiiibetsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (536-0919). Address submissions 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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Editorial: *Jo desMarets; Dianne Ida, Randy Kawamoto, Rev. Yuika Hasebe, Japanese section editor*; Production: *Stacy Bradshaw, Colleen Kunishige; Joyce Tomita*; 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.

2017 Annual Giving Campaign: Mahalo For Your Support!

The Hawaii Betsuin Ministers, Staff, and Board of Directors would like to express our heartfelt Mahalo Nui Loa to everyone who contributed to the 2017 Annual Giving Campaign. Your generous contributions totaled more than \$126,500.00. The money collected will go into our general development fund that supports major maintenance projects, as well as, capital projects for the temple facilities. It will also be used as a starting point for our upcoming fundraising efforts for the Centennial anniversary of the Hawaii Betsuin’s main building this year.

As any homeowner will tell you, it takes a lot to maintain a home. Just when you think that everything is going well, something breaks and needs to be repaired. Like the homeowner, the board is faced with many decisions regarding the long term maintenance and upkeep of our temple facilities. Our Facilities Committee has worked hard to produce a facilities master plan that prioritizes both necessary and “wish list” items for the temple. With a well-established general development fund, the board will be able to tackle more of the items head on, avoiding postponement of repair work that, if done later, can come at a much higher cost. As we celebrate the Centennial of our beautiful temple, for many of us, our “second home,” may we humbly ask for your continued support in our future fundraising efforts, so that we may preserve Hawaii Betsuin for another 100 years.

Betsuin BWA News and Events

MEDICARE ANNOUNCES NEW ID CARD MAILING SCHEDULE: (CMS)

Center for Medicare and Medicare Services announced that replacement card, which has been redesigned to prevent fraud will be issued out from April, 2018 through December 2019. The card is still red, white and blue, but it no longer includes a Social Security number, gender, signature or other personal information that could compromise a Medicare beneficiary's identity.

The new cards have an 11 character, randomly assigned number that has no connection to a beneficiary's other personal data. The mailing schedule for Hawaii residents is from April through June, 2018. Before the mailing begins, beneficiaries should make sure their addresses are correct. If you need to make a change, contact the Social Security Administration, which will be preparing and mailing the cards, at ssa.gov/my account or by calling 800-772-1213.

CMS wants beneficiaries to be aware of anyone who contacts them about their replacement Medicare card, as scammers have already targeted recipients with new plays. CMS officials say they will never ask a beneficiary for personal information or for any money as a condition of getting a new Medicare number and card. **IN OTHER WORDS, DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY INFORMATION THROUGH THE PHONE.**

What's the SCAM? Somebody from Medicare will call to tell you saying you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between \$5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card. **REMEMBER** Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to. Medicare does all communication by mail unless you ask them to call.

Thank you, Sharyn Sekine, for contributing this very important article.

SUCCESSFUL DANA COLLECTION, ALL THANKS TO YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

We surpassed last year's donation, and through your generosity we collected \$4,575.00 this year. Our goal was to collect \$4,000.00. We surpassed it by nearly \$600.00. Last year we collected \$4,095.00, therefore, this year we went over by \$480.00. You are absolutely fantastic people. Thank you.

The Dana Award recipients for 2018 are the following. Project Dana is a perpetual recipient. It is a National Volunteer Caregiving Network program that provides a variety of services to the frail, elderly, and disabled. Support comes from a corps of trained volunteers guided by the principle of "Dana," which means selfless giving and compassion without desire for recognition or reward.

1st Year recipient will be selected and will receive a thousand dollars each year for three years, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

2nd Year recipient is Project Vision Hawaii, who started to receive in year 2017, and will continue in 2018 and 2019. This program is Better Vision for the Keiki Program and provides vision and school readiness screenings to children of all ages, statewide, with priority for those with the highest need. More than 5 thousand children are screened each year, with Project Vision Hawaii providing glasses for children who attend select Title 1 schools.

3rd Year recipient is Hale Kipa, who received in 2016. 2017, and this is their final year, 2018. It is a private, non-profit organization created in 1970 to better the lives of at-risk youth throughout the state of Hawaii by providing opportunities and environments that strengthen and encour-

Fujiko Motobu

age youth, their families and communities to actualize their potential and social responsibilities.

COMING EVENTS:

HANAMATSURI: April 8, birth of Siddhartha Gautama who became enlightened as Sakyamuni Buddha some 3,000 years ago. Hanamatsuri means festival of flowers.

MINI MARKET: April 15. BWA welcomes donations of variety of things, help in manning the market, and appreciate all the buyers who make the mini market a success.

SUMI E EXHIBIT AT CITY HALL ON APRIL 16 THROUGH THE 27TH.

Mrs. Saigusa, teacher of Sumie and her students from Hawaii Betsuin, Makua Alii, Moiliili, Wahiawa senior centers and Hilo Hongwanji will be exhibiting their art work at the 17th annual sumie art exhibit. Everyone is welcome to visit, appreciate, and enjoy the work done by seniors. After all, seniors do have talent. Eight of our BWA members are excellent sumie artists from Betsuin. Come and see their work.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN:

The BWA ladies, as we grow older have discovered that vision, hearing and brain functions begin to slow down and deteriorate. Since we do not want to have dementia, we try to keep our brains functional. In order to do this, we need to think, and humor is a great way to massage your brain with the input of oxygen. It is also important to read books and activate our vocabulary. Socializing is very important and we need to continue to have a variety of experiences so that we don't repeat the same conversations over and over. Look for the positives and nice things to talk about and refrain from criticizing others as much as possible. BWA ladies went through a training session on speaking on the microphone, so they can be heard well. Dennis Sekine tutored the group with many suggestions, encouragements and support. This

continued on page 7

President's Corner: Dexter Mar

At our February 25 Board meeting, our operational income and expenses are on track thus far. Attendance at various services remains stable, though the number of memorial and funeral services continues a gradual decline.

Memorial & Funeral Service Improvement

The Board and Ministers have decided to review current Memorial and Funeral service programs for possible improvements. Please provide suggestions on how to improve these opportunities for remembrance and gratitude by providing a note to our Business Office.

Centennial Building Project.

The Facility Committee has developed a long list of deferred maintenance projects, in addition to the possible renovation plans. Our most pressing matter is how to fund all these facility projects over the next 5-10 years. Thus, the first concern is how to improve our fund-raising capabilities. This will be the focus for the next few meetings. If you have expertise, concerns, ideas, please drop a note, with your name and contact information, at the Betsuin Business Office.

Facilities Issues

The Hawaii Betsuin Facilities Committee responsibilities encompass the entire Pali Highway property, which includes the Betsuin temple complex, Hongwanji Mission School campus, Ministers' residences, and coordination with Kyodan Headquarters and the Pacific Buddhist Academy. Current immediate attention is being directed to the main social hall drinking fountain, emergency phone and women's bathroom leaks. An audit of storage spaces, especially the Japanese library and sewing room, is underway to improve capacity and access. Keypad locks for all bathroom doors is underway. If you have facility concerns or ideas, please drop a note, with your name and contact information, at the Betsuin Business Office.

Emergency Preparedness and Security

The Board continues to review and update the Emergency Preparedness procedures for the entire Betsuin campus. The Betsuin Board must coordinate how the Betsuin, the Kyodan, Hongwanji Mission School and Pacific Buddhist Academy handle emergencies. The priorities are:

1. First Aid (especially for fainting)
2. Instruction for the AED (automated external defibrillator)
3. Fire drills
4. Tsunami/Hurricane threats
5. National Security threats

Once procedures are ready, regular training classes will be offered to learn what to do.

Property-wide review of safety and security is considered important and a security plan using a mix of technology and people is underway.

Honolulu District Council (HDC)

Interested in what's happening at our nearby Hongwanji temples? The HDC connects Moiliili, Jikoen, and Kailua and Hawaii Betsuin temples to coordinate activities and to discuss statewide policy. Hawaii Betsuin is allocated 15 lay members and we need a few more delegates, especially women. If interested, please leave a note at the Business Office.

Come Join Us!

This brief message captures only a few of the many subjects the Board deals with each month. Minutes of the meetings are available from the Betsuin Business Office. You are also welcome to attend our Full Board meetings, which occur each month:

Full Board Meetings (Sundays, about 11:30am)

<i>January 28</i>	<i>July 15</i>
<i>February 25</i>	<i>August 19</i>
<i>March 18</i>	<i>September 9</i>
<i>April 8</i>	<i>October 14</i>
<i>May 6</i>	<i>November 11</i>
<i>June 3</i>	<i>December 16</i>

Thank you all for your support of our volunteer Board of Directors; and please continue to express your gratitude for the legacy of our beautiful Betsuin temple and 100 years of devoted service to our Sangha.



With hands together in Gassho,
Dexter Mar



What Is Your Nembutsu Moment? Mari Murakami

In October of 2017, I was invited to compose a piece sometime during the centennial year of celebrating Hawaii Betsuin's beautiful temple structure. The intent of composing and performing such a piece was, as I understood, to keep awareness of this celebration alive in folks' minds during the year and to encourage folks to appreciate the efforts of all who have come before us. I think my first hearing of the words "Nembutsu moment" and realizing their meaning occurred over a year ago, during a service, when Alan and Debbie Kubota and members of their family talked about their memorable trip to Japan. They described specific times during their visit as "Nembutsu moments." The phrase stuck in my mind as a way to express connecting with my faith in a certain way. This inspired me to compose a gatha called "Nembutsu Moments" about my understanding of what a Nembutsu moment can be. When I was growing up, my parents, who lived with the Dharma every day, taught me that the simple way to understand Jodo Shinshu Buddhism was to recite "Namu Amida Butsu" anytime and anyplace. The Hawaii Betsuin Choir will sing my gatha, "Nembutsu Moments," (lyrics below) on April 29, following the Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Day service, as part of the musical program in the Social Hall. So, what is your Nembutsu moment?

"Nembutsu Moments"

(Music and lyrics by Mari Murakami)

1) Nembutsu moments are inside of you.
Straight from your heart, they will always ring true.
With your hands together in gratitude,
a Nembutsu moment is "Namu Amida Butsu."

2) Nembutsu moments live deep in your heart.
You grow with Buddha wherever you are.
With love and compassion in whatever you do,
There's a Nembutsu moment or
"Namu Amida Butsu."

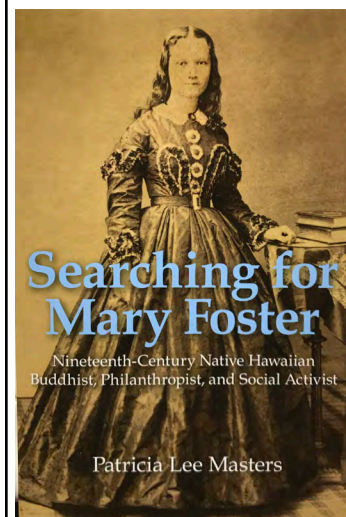
3) Nembutsu moments can be big or small,
gifts of the Dharma that teaches us all
to reflect and to learn, with a new point of view,
that a Nembutsu moment means
"Namu Amida Butsu."

4) "Nembutsu moments" are what we might hear,
joining the Sangha, our voices sincere.
When reciting the name with conviction anew,
speak the Nembutsu moment with
"Namu Amida Butsu."

5) Nembutsu moments can show you the way--
kindness towards others with each passing day.
With Amida and Shinran together with you,
it's a Nembutsu moment. Say
"Namu Amida Butsu."

"Namu Amida Butsu."

"Namu Amida Butsu."



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Hongwanji Mission Book Store
1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813

BOOK REVIEW: submitted by Dexter Mar

"Searching for Mary Foster"

by Patricia Lee Masters

This is a very personal and intimate account of Pat Masters' lifelong path of discovery fueled by her interest in her Hawaiian muse, Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster. Dr. Masters chronicles her journey in an "interpretive history" of Mary Foster and the events of her lifetime.

Chapter 7 is devoted to the "Pure Land" and Mary Foster's connections to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and Bishop Yemyo Imamura. This chapter is especially fascinating during the 100th anniversary of the Hawaii Betsuin temple building.

Forewords from the book:

Bishop Eric Matsumoto,

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

"Almost forgotten in the land of her birth-Hawaii, a debt of gratitude to Pat Masters for this book which brings back to present memory the captivating life including spiritual journey and contributions of Mary Elizabeth Mikahala Robinson Foster, one of the greatest benefactors of Buddhism in the world, including Jodo Shinshu in Hawaii."

Kathryn Ann Harper, PhD, Professor Emeritus,

Loyola Marymount University

"This beautifully written work on philanthropist and social activist Mary Foster, a Hawaiian noble woman, provides valuable long-lost historical information on little known aspects of Buddhism's migration to the west as well as its restoration in its homeland, India."

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 536-7044 to
request a home visit.



We miss you and
do not want to lose
contact with you!



From the Green Team

Hawaii Betsuin Green Fair
Sunday, April 15 (10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.)

Begin Earth Week by enjoying environmentally-themed informational displays and activities hosted by affiliated groups including BWA, Girl Scout Brownie Troop 257, Cub Scouts, Dharma School, the Betsuin Green Team, and more. EM Hawaii will also have a table. Some items will be available for purchase, including reusable bamboo utensil kits and BWA Mini Market items.

Earth Day Service
Sunday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.
With Manulani Aluli Meyer

Our adult, English service on Earth Day will feature a talk by world-wide Indigenous scholar and author Manulani Aluli Meyer. Dr. Meyer is the Konohiki (Facilitator) of Kūlana o Kapolei – a Hawaiian Place of Learning at UH West Oahu. The working title of Dr. Meyer's talk is, "Ku'u Aina Aloha: Hawaiian Buddhism." After the service, please join us for dialogue with Dr. Meyer in the Annex Temple.



Good turnout for February's HHMH Open Night at Hawaii Betsuin

Many people were introduced to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Hawaii Betsuin, and Pacific Buddhist Academy at the HHMH "Open Night" on February 15. The event was part of a series of open houses at temples representing various de-



nominations making up the Hawaii Buddhist Council. After a welcome and short service in the hondo (including a gatha sung by our choir), plus remarks by the Bishop and Dexter Mar, attendees got a tour of the temple campus. Pictured here are stops at the altars of the Annex Temple and Pacific Buddhist Academy, where the tour concluded. PBA teacher and Betsuin board member Ben Bruch offered brief remarks, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this event.

Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, April 15 - Earth Week Fair

- Dharma School will have a make-and-take Recycling Project to share with all

Saturday, April 21 - Shabu Shabu Night

- Dharma School Service and Singing Practice for Eshin-ni/Kakushi-ni Day
- Share food and fellowship with other Dharma School students and families
- Meet other Dharma School students and families while playing games and eating an onolicious shabu-shabu dinner

• Sunday, April 22 - No Dharma School Service

- Enjoy a relaxing Sunday morning at home with family

Sunday, April 29 - Eshin-ni / Kakushin-ni Day

- Dharma School will be conducting the service and singing songs during the service
- Program in the Social Hall after the service with Dharma School singing together with the Betsuin Choir

Sunday, May 6 - District-wide Intergenerational Picnic at Magic Island (Sites #38 & 39)

- Sunday Service at the Park
- Old-Fashioned Church Picnic Games
- Undokai Relays
- Bento Lunch

BWA News

continued from page 3

meant, to speak slowly, clearly, loudly by speaking right into the mic instead of straying away. The BWA ladies who participated in the lessons were Sharyn Sekine, Wendie Yumori, Florence Wasai, Liane Wong, Dianne Ida, Carol Ogino, Barbara Brennan and Lillian Inatsuka. Fusae Kiyokawa and Fujiko Motobu were critiques by sitting in the back row of the Hondo and immediately letting the speaker know if she was not being heard. Many people speak too fast and seniors do realize this dilemma, only after they become old. Listen to these MC's in the future and hope that you can hear them well. Perhaps all personnel who are MC's need to go through this training, especially the men, for they have the tendency to mumble and speak too fast.

HUMOR: MEN ALWAYS SEEM TO DOMINATE IN THE WORLD:

Woman has MAN in it. Mrs. has MR. in it. Female has MALE. She has HE and Madam has ADAM. All women's problems start with MEN. MENTAL illness, MENstrual cramps. MENTAL breakdown. MENopause and GUYnecologist. And when we have real trouble it's HISTERectomy. Now, ladies, do you agree that MEN are the source of our problems?

Bishop Announces Change In Ministerial Assignments

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has announced that Rev. Arthur Kaufmann will be assigned to the Lihue Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister effective July 15, 2018. Rev. Kaufmann has served at the HHHB as an Associate Minister since June 1, 2013.

Rev. Shingo Furusawa, presently serving at Honokaa, Kamuela, Kohala and Paaui Hongwanji Mission temples will be assigned to the Headquarters as the Office of Buddhist Education Assistant as of April 1, 2018. And, as of July 15, 2018, while continuing as the OBE Assistant in a half-time capacity, he will be assigned as a half-time Associate Minister at the Hawaii Betsuin.

May the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha guide them in their new assignments. Namo Amida Butsu!

Dharma School Service Schedule

- 01 HBC Buddha Day
at Soto Mission 9:30 am
- 08 Betsuin Buddha Day
Family Service 9:30 am
Dr. Benjamin Bruch
- 15 Special Service 9:30 am
Rev. Sol Kalu
- 22 No Service due to
Shabu Shabu dinner
- 29 Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Day
Service 9:30 am
Rev. Toshikazu Arai

**Hongwanji
Radio Programs
APRIL 2018
KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 07 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
14 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
21 Rev. Ryoso Toshima
28 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8:00 AM

- 01 HBC Buddha Day
at Soto Mission 9:30 am
08 Betsuin Buddha Day
Rev. Joshin Kamuro
15 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
22 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
29 Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Day
Rev. Toshikazu Arai

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 01 HBC Buddha Day
at Soto Mission 9:30 am
08 Betsuin Buddha Day
9:30 am Dr. Benjamin Bruch
15 Special Service 9:30 am
Rev. Sol Kalu
22 Earth Day Service
Manulani Alulu Meyer
29 Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Day
9:30 am Rev. Toshikazu Arai

Nicchu Service 1pm

- 01 HBC Buddha Day
Soto Mission 9:30 am
08 Betsuin Buddha Day
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
15 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
22 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
29 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

**Dharma School
Service Info On Page 7**

In Memoriam

FEBRUARY 2017

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

1/14/2018 TAKAMORI, Robert Yuzuru (84)

- 01 HONDA, Yoshikane (96)
01 ITO, Yukie (95)
01 TERAMOTO, Glen Kiyoshi (55)
10 GOO, Hanson Kun Min (71)
10 NAKAHARA, Masato (91)
11 KAGEURA, Chojiro (97)
17 UYENO, Laureen Yoko (51)
18 IKEZAKI, Stella Okita (Hatsue) (88)
24 URUU, Toshie Furusho (95)

2018 Memorial Service Schedule

2018 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2017 – 1 year	2006 – 13 year	1986 – 33 year
2016 – 3 year	2002 – 17 year	1969 – 50 year
2012 – 7 year	1994 – 25 year	1919 – 100 year

Nursing Home Services for APRIL 2018

- 05 Hale Nani – Rev. Hasebe
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Kalu
12 Maluhia – Rev. Kamuro
Liliha – Rev. Kaufmann
13 Kuakini – Rev. Kalu
26 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Hasebe
27 Leahi – Rimban 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

Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has responded to the recent mass shooting in Florida in several ways. At Pacific Buddhist Academy, students received a dharma message addressing the shooting from Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani and, on March 14, planted 17 sunflowers in honor of the shooting victims. Rev. Umitani also delivered his message at Moiliili Hongwanji. And below, we provide an organizational statement on gun violence. While the statement includes some positions on policy, it is also a way to explore Buddhist teachings through their application to the crisis.

Statement On Gun Violence

March 14, 2018

We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, their families, and the entire school community. As senseless gun violence continues to claim thousands of lives annually in the United States and cause untold grief and suffering, we are moved to contribute perspectives on this critical issue as Buddhists and as followers of the Jodo Shinshu faith tradition.

We begin by acknowledging our necessarily limited and imperfect understanding. Like any institution or individual in a position to address gun violence even indirectly, we need guidance. In Buddhism, we seek guidance from the Buddha, the Dharma (teachings), and the Sangha (our extended community of fellow travelers). We hereby share some of the guidance we find for addressing the issue of gun violence and offer some recommended actions.

Causes and Conditions

The Buddha taught that everything that exists and occurs arises from prior causes and conditions. Acts of gun violence arise out of complex sets of causes and conditions rather than from some inexplicable evil. This concept gives hope that with right understanding and action, we can affect causes and conditions in ways that will reduce gun violence.

We are encouraged by the commitment and initiative of young students across the country who are insisting that our government institutions address the crisis of gun violence. Their actions are already creating conditions more favorable to enacting sensible and responsible restrictions. May they find the guidance and strength they need to maintain poise, eloquence, and determination in pursuit of change.

Right Understanding

The Noble Eightfold Path is the Buddha's prescription for liberation from suffering, and right understanding is one of the eight components. We must seek to understand why the epidemic of gun violence in the United States is occurring. To this end, we support lifting restrictions that prevent the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from studying gun violence. We urge Congress to provide funding for the CDC to do this work.

The Middle Path

A related Buddhist teaching that is likewise helpful to consideration of gun violence and how our society might respond is the Middle Path. This is a path that avoids extremes, allowing a dispassionate vantage point from which to better observe opposing sides and grow our understanding. Between extremes of absolute control and absolute freedom lies a middle path of practical reality.

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

Statement On Gun Violence continued

March 14, 2018

A convincing case may be made that the United States has strayed from the middle path when it comes to guns, veering to an extreme of permissiveness. We support pursuing corrective measures by our elected representatives and other officials to restore balance. Among such measures may be reenacting a ban on assault rifles, raising the age minimums for gun purchases, strengthening background checks, and removing loopholes that allow gun sellers and buyers to bypass checks. Gun laws in the state of Hawaii provide good examples in some areas.

While sensible gun regulations are a key element of addressing gun violence in this country and should be pursued immediately, addressing root causes is fundamental to achieving lasting peace in our communities.

Amida Buddha's Wisdom And Compassion & Thoughts And Actions

The roots of our actions are in our thoughts. If our minds are consumed with thoughts and feelings of alienation, rejection, anger, and misguided notions of gender and power, our actions may be antisocial and possibly violent. Conversely, if our minds are awakened to the oneness of existence and the all embracing Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha, our mental orientation is one of gratitude, appreciation, acceptance, and helping. In this case, there is less chance of violent thoughts taking root and being expressed in actions.

Interconnectedness

Buddhism teaches that we are all connected to each other through a vast web of connections. This means that each one of us can help to bring about peace through our thoughts, words, and actions wherever we may be — for example, our schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. It is up to us to observe where the societal net is fraying and where individuals may perceive that their connection has been lost. In these cases, we can reach out to those who are suffering. Through our smile, kind words, deep listening, and/or counsel, we can help manifest the compassion that embraces them.

Deep Self-Reflection And Deeper Insight

Let us all try to connect with people who are feeling rejected, ignored, or bullied. Let us all reflect upon our attachment to the “rightness” of our views and seek to understand other points of view. Let us all help each other adjust to change in a constantly changing world. Let us all strive to strengthen our society by better balancing freedom with responsibility. Guided by deep self-reflection, let us all work to bring well-being and peace to our communities.

Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani is the spiritual head of our Jodo Shinshu tradition. On the final day of a series of services in 2017 marking his accession to the role, the new Gomonshu said, “The sense of security of being embraced in the Buddha’s compassion becomes the support in our daily life and empowers us to become actively engaged in society.” It is in this spirit that we offer this statement on gun violence.

Namo Amida Butsu

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is the umbrella organization for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the islands. Our mission is to share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so that all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace, and gratitude.