



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

Vol. 73, No.5



MAY 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

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin To Observe Gotan-e on May 20, 2018

The observance of Gotan-e is one of the most important major religious holidays in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, for it is the celebration of the birth of Jodo Shinshu's founder Shinran Shonin. Shinran advocated faith (shinjin), recitation of the name of Amida Buddha (the Nembutsu) in gratitude and birth in the Pure Land as the essential core of his teachings, a radical departure from the training and teachings he had received as a Tendai monk in Mt. Hiei for 20 years, which did not lead him to any spiritual awakening. What Shinran awakened to was the realization that despite all efforts to do rigorous ascetic practices and adhere to strict monastic precepts, his base passions or bonnou could not be eliminated and served as a hindrance to his spiritual advancement. It was only when he met his teacher Honen Shonin and from him encountered the teaching of total reliance on Amida Buddha and the Primal Vow for awakening and liberation from the shackles of blind passion, was Shinran able to see through the futility of self power practices and accept his inability to achieve any breakthrough in his pursuit of enlightenment on his own.



Everyone is welcome to attend the Gotan-e service on May 20, 2018. The speaker is Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

DHARMA LIGHT Buddhist Studies Program

Thursday 6-8pm, May 17, 2018

American Buddhism: Re-invention or Re-discovery?

Panelists: Drs. Jeff Wilson and George Tanabe

Moderator: Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki

Buddhism was introduced to the United States as early as the 1850's by Asian immigrants and found again in the 1950's by the literary "Beat Generation." What is "American Buddhism" today and where is it going? Does a new form of Buddhism need to be re-invented for acceptance in America, or do we go "back to the future" and re-discover the Universal Teachings of Sakyamuni?

Explore what over 160 years of the American Buddhist experience tells us about the needs and wants of American society. What resonates with today's American public?

Forum format: Professors Tanabe and Wilson will respond to questions posed by the moderator, Rev. Kuniyuki, then questions & comments will be taken from the audience. WHERE: Buddhist Study Center, 1436 University Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822 COST: No charge, donations accepted.

Dharma Message: "Caring"

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann



As some of you might know I had the privilege of giving a Dharma talk at the last Giseikai. In my talk I tried to cover the importance and responsibilities of the Sangha, but I had not arrived at a suitable ending for my talk until the day before I was to deliver it.

On that day we attended to the business of the Kyodan by working on various issues. Whenever a decision had to be made about an issue, there was, of course, discussion. Some of the discussion was about how or if the Giseikai itself could be improved? How could the processes be streamlined and still have the legislative body perform its function?

While some delegates were eager to streamline procedures, others were

concerned about how these changes might affect other procedures. Some folks wanted change now, while others wanted to see how those changes might affect other things, inter-relationships. Both sides had valid points, and they were willing to discuss the possibilities; the discussion was animated.

It was then that I realized just what was underlying all the effort on the parts of the delegates and observers and the whole process really, it was caring. Everyone there, from the Chairman, the Bishop, secretaries, delegates, retired ministers, and observers all cared about what was being discussed. What was being discussed was the future of the Hawaii Kyodan.

I had noted in my talk that if we, the Sangha, did not respond to the need for change and accept our responsibilities as a Sangha, it was in the realm of possibility that the Hawaii Hongwanji Mission could disappear from Hawaii.

The Hawaii Kyodan, like everything else, is subject to the law of impermanence as revealed by the Shakyamuni Buddha. We might then just reflect on where this caring came from.

I have always been impressed by the fact that some of the Issei pioneers who came to Hawaii to work considered their religious paths so important that they wrote to their respective Religious Headquarters to request that priests be sent to Hawaii. Gradually, from that point on, one or more Buddhist temples were established on most, if not all, of the plantations here. Our sect, True Pureland School was one of those. Judging by the size of the Sangha back then, there was obviously no question about the support and caring for those temples.

You have no doubt seen the pictures of the Shinshu Sanghas gathered in front of their temples. Most of the pictures required a panoramic camera to fit everyone in.

Over the years, times and attitudes have changed, and our Sanghas have gotten smaller, but there are still caring people in our temples, and those people were represented and were at the Gisaikai. Let's look farther back to Honen and Shinran and how they demonstrated their caring. Honen Shonin actually left Mt. Hiei, the center of the Buddhist world in Japan, to share the Pureland teachings to the common people of Kyoto and afford them the possibility of liberation.

Shinran Shonin, even during his time of exile, taught the people of Echigo his True Pureland teachings. Are these not the acts of caring individuals?

Even after Shinran died, Lady Eshin-ni and their daughter Kakushin-ni with those who studied under Shinran, refused to let his teaching fade away and disappear. This is also the product of caring.

Let's go back to when Siddhartha became aware of the suffering in the Human Condition and gave up everything to find the causes and how to alleviate that suffering. Then, as an Enlightened being, through the working of his compassion, decided to teach despite knowing how difficult it would be, the ways to alleviate our sufferings and ultimately achieve Enlightenment. This is supreme caring that encompasses all of existence.

The reality is that we come from an ancient tradition of caring that goes back almost 2600 years, do we not? Should we continue to care today? Well, let me see; has the human condition changed so much in these past 2600 years? Have sickness, old age and death been eradicated? Do you think, by any stretch of your imagination, that your or your children's lives will be perfect without any problems? Well...? Namoamidabutsu



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.

GOJI STAFF:

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.

Betsuin BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

BWA MAY 2018 ACTIVITIES:

There are three graduation ceremonies at Hawaii Betsuin:

Friday, May 4 will be (PBA) Pacific Buddhist Academy's graduation;
Monday, May 21 will be Fort Gakuen graduation, and
Wednesday, May 23 will be (HMS) Hongwanji Mission School graduation.

May 5, Saturday will be Hosha day; and help is needed.

May 5, BWA executive board meeting will be held beginning at 10:30am. in the dining room.

May 12, Saturday, the Honolulu United BWA representatives meeting will be held at Betsuin from 9-11 am.

May 13, Sunday, Mothers' Day of which everyone should celebrate.

May 20, Sunday, The calligraphy or shodo class and flower arrangement classes of Mrs. M. Okano will have their annual exhibit in the social hall on Gotan e Sunday. Please enjoy the calligraphy and flower arrangements.

May 27, Sunday, Memorial Day Service. The choir will participate, and we have many of our BWA members who are choir members. We are fortunate to have such talented personnel among our BWA group. We enjoy their talent very much. Their goal is to sing all their songs without the aid of their music books.

BWA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

We have gained three new members. They are, Diane Mashall from Kailua, Koreen Shiosaki, from Pearl City and Joy Nishida from Kaneohe. Since Kailua Hongwanji has cancelled their BWA organization, due to small membership, we hope Hawaii Betsuin will be able to encourage them to join us. Joy Nishida is Florence Wasai's daughter and very active leader with the Junior YBA. It is very encouraging to see mother-daughter combination joining the BWA. All mothers, try to persuade your daughter(s) and even daughter in law to join with you. We are very happy to have you join us, and we do hope you will enjoy our activities. FAREWELL. A few of our members have left us recently. They are Helen Takamiya, Mitsue Kurozumi and Betty

Sawada. They were active members of Hawaii Betsuin as well as with BWA for many years. We shall miss them all. Namo Amida Butsu.

ESHINNI ROOM AND LOTUS ROOM

BWA has regained its ownership of the ground level rooms which were being used by PBA. It was a one large room with kitchen facilities, but PBA built a wall and made it into two rooms; therefore, the two rooms have acquired new names. The large room is now called Eshinni room, and the smaller room is now called, Lotus room. The original tatami room where tea ceremony was held is still occupied by PBA. Perhaps when it is returned, it may again become a tatami room. The younger generation of BWA

members may come up with new ideas in the usage of these rooms. A beautiful pine tree which was growing in the front of the building died after the building was treated for termites. Perhaps the BWA should plant another beautiful tree, a Bodhi tree?

SUCCESSFUL TASTE OF HONGWANJI BAZAAR:

Thank you to all of you who participated in the annual bazaar. It was a beautiful day and there were many things to buy at bargain prices. Did you see our Rev. Hagio, who had purchased a Chinese cap with a long braided hair hanging on one side? He really looked funny, yet adorable. Perhaps one Sunday he will come dressed up with it.

Many people, both members and non members helped in the preparation of the bazaar which was a very enjoyable and successful event. The BWA members sorted the goods for three weeks in order to get ready for the bazaar. In doing this, they also gathered men's clothing, T shirts, sweat shirts as well as back packs to donate to Hale Kipa and its Programs and services, of which Youth Outreach Program otherwise known as YO! was given about eight bagful of clothing fit for youth and adult male. YO! is located in Waikiki and the mission of it is to encourage and empower runaway, homeless, and street identified youth to acquire information and skills that promote safety, develop individual strengths and enhance decision making. The youths generally range in ages from about 16 to 22. Some of these youths are runaways, and some are cast away from their families. It is hard to believe that parents would cast away their teen age sons be

continued on page 4

BWA News and Events continued from page 3

cause there are too many other children, or they have caused too many problems for the parents. There are many success stories which follow them. Hale Kipa and Waikiki Health have been providing services to these homeless, runaway and street identified youth on Oahu as well as all the neighbor islands since 1989. Services provided are: Street Outreach, Meals, shower, clothing, laundry, use of locker, someone to trust and talk to, crisis intervention, information and referral, case management, referral for counseling, advocacy, independent living skills training, safety workshops, education support and employment assistance. They can work toward attaining their GED at YO.

President Wendie Yumori and Fujiko Motobu visited YO! in Waikiki and certainly learned a lot from their advisor, Alika, who has been with them for twenty years. We should be very grateful when our family members do not cause any anxieties and problems. BWA members, you can all be proud that we have been able to assist Hale Kipa in its programs annually with bazaar donations. They are doing a great job.

THANK YOU FOR THE HUGE DONATION FOR DANA.....

Total amount collected was \$4,715.00, and our goal was \$4,000. 00. Thank you to all the generous people who donated for a good cause. When it is determined who will be the new recipient of a thousand dollars for three years, you will be notified.

NOW FOR SOME HUMOR: 1. I don't mean to brag but....I finished my 14 day diet food in 3 hours and 20 minutes. 2. A recent study has found women who carry a little extra

weight live longer than men who mention it. 3. I love being older;I learn something new every day and forget 5 others. 4. A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money, so I woke up

and searched with him. Didn't find any.

WANTED: Please share your good recipes with us. Main dishes, desserts, snacks, etc. any tasty and delicious dishes are welcome.

Altar Flowers A Thing Of Beauty!



Every week, Mrs. Junko Hagio, our Rimban's wife, meticulously gathers floral items, focusing on three special arrangements for our Hondo, one fronting Amida Buddha's figure, and two for the altars honoring Shinran Shonin on the right and Rennyo Shonin on the left. The photograph shows Mrs. Hagio's artistic skill, using local anthuriums, heliconias, and monstera leaves in an arrangement for the

recent 2018 Statewide Legislative Assembly

The Hawaii Betsuin and its members are privileged to see Mrs. Hagio's creative vision throughout the year. Temple green-thumbers who have special flowers or greenery in their gardens (or elsewhere), please kokua Mrs. Hagio.

Calling All Bakers!

Once again, the temple humbly asks for donations of baked goods for our 2018 Bon dance to be held on Friday and Saturday, June 29 -30, 2018.

Donations of cookies, brownies, party mix, finger snacks, etc are greatly appreciated. If pre-bagging your items, please label contents and bag according to a \$2 price point. (ie. bag 4 large cookies or 6-8 small ones). We will need baked goods for both Friday and Saturday nights.

Please bring your donations to the temple office during the week of the Bon dance. All proceeds from the baked goods will go directly to the Hawaii Betsuin. Baked goods are always #1 in popularity and always the first thing to sell out, so please get out your favorite recipes and bake away. We truly appreciate your kind support!



President's Report : Dexter Mar

This is a short re-cap of issues of concern and actions taken from the past two Board meetings. At our March 18 & April 8 Board meetings, the treasure reported that our operational income and expenses continue on track. Attendance at various services remains stable, though the number of memorial and funeral services continues a gradual decline.

Memorial & Funeral Service Improvement

A team of ministers and Board members has met and identified several ways to improve how memorial services are offered at the Betsuin. The next step is to develop a plan that sets priorities and actions. Please let us know how you think memorial services might be improved by leaving a note at the Betsuin Business Office.

Centennial Building Project.

The Board is partnering with a fundraising consultant, The Shain Group, to learn, develop and move forward on our campaign to maintain and improve our Betsuin temple and facilities. The first phase from May-July is learning what various temple and community groups think of Hongwanji. Please welcome Barry Shain and Pat Hamamoto to the Betsuin and make the time to be interviewed, if asked.

Facilities Issues

Have you noticed the "STOP Pedestrian Crossing" sign at the makai parking lot exit to Lusitana Street? We hope so!! Further fence modifications to improve sidewalk sightlines require City approval, so may take several months.

Other items under review for the action within the next 6 months are:

1. Screen doors for the kitchen double doors.
2. Electronic keypad locks for Annex bathrooms (Ground & first floors)
3. Social Hall drinking fountain
4. Lounge rug replacement (safety concerns with current condition)
5. Ministers' office air conditioning replacement
6. Storage space audit and rummage sale donation storage
7. Annex Social Hall/HMS Creative Arts Center flooring repair / replacement

Longer-term projects are also under review for 1-5, 6-10, and 11-15 years.

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) – Target date by June 1.

By year-end:

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.

If you have emergency preparedness or safety concerns or ideas, please drop a note, with your name and contact information, at the Betsuin Business Office.

continued on page 6

President's Report continued from page 5

Donor Recognition

As the Betsuin learns how to financially support our temple, the Board is reviewing how best to express our gratitude to donors and their "Dana." The Betsuin has traditionally been quite conservative with open acknowledgements and mostly send private letters of thankfulness.

We are just beginning our evaluation by looking at what other Hawaii and mainland Hongwanji temples do, as well as other Buddhist temples and non-Buddhist churches, to recognize their supporters.

If you have donor recognition concerns or ideas, please drop a note, with your name and contact information, at the Betsuin Business Office.

Various Committee Reports

1. Rimban: Rev. Kaufmann assigned to Lihue Hongwanji Mission, July 15, 2018.
Rev. Furusawa assigned to Headquarters, March 30-July 14, then ½-time to Betsuin from July 15, 2018.
2. Executive Director: New "Donor Management" software system (by Bloomerang) has been selected to improve the handling of donations and acknowledgements. Supported numerous March & April events.
3. Events: Thanks to everyone for a successful Taste of Hongwanji! BWA exceeded their \$10,000 goal from the rummage sale. A new Bon Dance Centennial towel is being designed.
4. BWA: See separate article
5. Music: The Betsuin Choir supported the Hawaii Buddhist Council "Buddha Day" service at Soto Zen Mission and the "Gannenmono" memorial service. Preparing for "Choralfest" and "Gatha Month (May)".
6. Dharma School: Hongwanji Picnic for all ages at Magic Island (sites 38-39) on May 6. Dharma School hosted Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Day Service April 29.
7. Social Concerns: April Earth Day Green Fair (15th) and Earth Day Service (22nd) were planned by the Hongwanji Green Team led by Dave Atcheson.

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)

May 5 (Sat 12-2)	September 9
June 3	October 14
July 15	November 11
August 19	December 16

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.

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!

Hawaii Betsuin

Bon Dance

June 29 & 30

Fri. & Sat.

6:00-10:30 pm



Everyone Welcome!

Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

Sunday, April 15 - Green Fair Kicks Off Earth Week At the Betsuin!

Have you ever wondered what to do with your old socks? How about keeping your plastic water bottles and making something with them? The Betsuin Dharma School shared two cool projects to recycle those old socks and plastic water bottles.

At the April 15 Earth Day Fair, old socks were turned into new fuzzy friends, SOCK BUNNIES! At the Dharma School tables, both young and old filled gently used socks with rice, first making a body, then a head and finally, floppy ears. The final touches were a ribbon bow around the bunny's neck and drawing a personalized face. Smiles and squeals of joy were abounding once the bunnies were all complete. And everyone had a "new friend" to take home with them.



Plastic water bottles can be cut and turned into a self-watering planter. Starter herb and vegetable plants, such as Chinese parsley, spearmint, chives, and rosemary were on display, planted in recycled water bottles. Some bottles were turned into self-watering planters, which could be a fun way to start an indoor vegetable garden at home. Those that were lucky enough got to take home a starter sample from the Dharma School collection.



Many thanks go to Thanh and Shally Giang, and Aileen Brennan who spearheaded these projects for the Dharma School.

We welcome any new and fun ideas for next year's Green Fair and we have a whole year to plan. Keep those fun recycling ideas coming!

STAY TUNED for updates from Shabu Shabu Night (April 21), Eshin-ni / Kakushin-ni Day (April 29) and the Honolulu District Intergenerational Picnic (May 6) in the June Goji!



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

05 Rev. Mieko Majima
12 Prof. Toshikazu Arai
19 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
26 Rev. Shingo Furusawa

Betsuin Services

Asaji Service 8:00 AM

06 Rimban Toyokazu Hagio
13 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
20 Gotan-E Service
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
27 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Dharma School 9:00 AM

06 - no services
13 - Rev. Sol Kalu
20 - 9:30 am
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
27 - Rev. Yuika Hasebe

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

06 - no services
13 - Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
20 - 9:30 am
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
27 - Rev. Sol Kalu

Nicchu Service 1:00 PM

06 - no services
13 - Rev. Joshin Kamuro
20 - Rev. Yuika Hasebe
27 - Rimban Toyokazu Hagio

In Memoriam



MARCH 2018

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

2/6/2018 HIGASHIHARA, George Shinichi (81)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 SAWADA, Betty Yooko (83) | 12 KUMURA, Harriet Y. (100) |
| 2 SUGIMURA, Sue Satsue (69) | 16 TANAKA, Doris Miyome (100) |
| 6 SATO, Beatrice Mitsue (99) | 18 YAMASHIGE, Yoshime (95) |
| 8 HONDA, Kimiko (95) | 19 KAMADA, Karen Kasumi (93) |
| 8 MORITA, Harold Hiroshi (85) | 23 KUTARA, Betsy Miyoko (95) |
| 9 AIKO, Shigeko (78) | 24 KAWAMOTO, Jessie Kimiye (100) |
| 9 BESSEN, Gay Keiko Tokumaru (55) | 25 INOUE, Edward Noboru (84) |
| 9 EBISUTANI, Leatrice Emiko (86) | 28 MITCHELL, Shizuko (92) |
| 9 INAMURA, Eiko (89) | 29 OHMI, George Isamu (89) |
| 9 WATANABE, Don Hideo (60) | 30 TAIRA, Richard Shigeo (85) |
| | 31 MORIKAWA, Wilfred Hiroto (82) |

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 MAY 2018

- 04 Hale Nani – Rev. Hasebe
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Kalu
10 Maluhia – Rev. Kamuro
Liliha – Rev. Kaufmann
11 Kuakini – Rev. Hasebe
24 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kaufmann
25 Leahi – Rimban Hagio



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