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GOJI

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FEBRUARY 2024
NEWSLETTER
of the
Honpa Hongwanji
Hawai'i Betsuin
hawaiibetsuin.org

2024 Slogan:
"Building Healthy
Sanghas: Sharing
Nembutsu Moments"

BETSUIN MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Yuika Hasebe

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Shingo Furusawa
Rev. Blayne
Nakasone Sakata
Rev. Charlene Kihara

Betsuin Hosts Ho'okuikahi, An Interfaith Celebration of Queen Lili'uokalani and Mary Mikahala Foster

Hawai'i Betsuin hosted this years Ho'okuikahi on January 19th in the Hondo. The event is an interfaith commemoration of the compassionate and enduring heart of Queen Lili'uokalani who was a proponent of religious freedom and diver-sity, and friend and supporter of Bishop Yemyo Imamura, the first Jodo Shinshu Bishop of Hawai'i. It was also an acknowledgment of Mary Mikahala Foster, the first Native Hawaiian Buddhist, and benefactor of land to Honpa Hongwanji. Mary Mikahala Foster, primary advisor to the Queen, was also patron to Foster Botanical Gardens and other Buddhist temples. The evening featured talks by Rimban Yuika Hasebe, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank of the California Pacific Conference, Reverend Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center, the Project Dana Dancers, a shakuhachi offering by Katsumi Takemoto, a theatre reenactment of Japanese immigrant reaction to the overthrow by the Hawai'i Pono'i Coalition, choral music, and taiko drumming by Ryugen Taiko.

A committee comprised of representatives from Betsuin, Jikoen, Mo'ili'ili, and Windward temples, who aim to promote the legacy of Mary Mikahala Foster and engage in outreach to the Hawaiian community, worked with Rev. Kaleo Patterson to plan the event. About 220 people were in attendance.



Upcoming Special Events:

- February 4, 2024 Scout Sunday (page 3)
- February 4, 2024 Project Dana Paper Goods Drive (page 6)
- February 18, 2024 Mr. George Takei (page 7)
- March 17, 2024 PBA Annual Taiko Festival (page 4)
- March 24, 2024 Spring Bazaar and BWA Rummage Sale (page 3)

For more information about these events, or any activities at the Betsuin, please visit hawaiibetsuin.org or contact the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044.

Dharma Message: “Live Together with Amida Buddha”

Under the Great Compassion, I hope all is well with you. A couple of weeks ago, I caught a cold, and it seems like there was a bad cold spreading around.

Recently, I remembered a car accident I experienced about 14 years ago. The car accident shook my body hard, and I felt a slight pain in my lower back.

Ever since I was young, I always had a back problem. It was fine at the time of the accident, but the pain came back much worse 10 years later. Because of the pain, I couldn't sleep nor could I lie down

for a long time in the same position. I also couldn't sit down for a long time. I rolled left to right, trying to sleep. I went to the doctor, and he said that I should build up the muscle around the lower back. Therefore, I started to exercise, and now I am ok.

The pain of the heart is very hard, but the pain of the physical body can be unbearable. For both, we have to endure and deal with the pain by ourselves.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe, Rimban

Sometimes we can't eat, sleep, or stand up because of the pain. Have you ever experienced being in pain and hearing the family's laughter from another room or seeing many happy people on the TV? At such times, I always feel alone and feel that I am far away from the outside world. Sometimes physical pain can easily overwhelm us, and mental suffering can be triggered as well from the physical suffering. With such pain, it is extremely difficult to keep our mind at peace and our mental status will easily become very frail and vulnerable. In the book Dharmakara Bodhisattva and World of Life (Hozo Bosatsu to Seimei Sekai), written by Prof. Akira Omine of Ryukoku University, he says, “If you feel neuralgia, you can think that Amida Buddha understands this pain. (Amida Buddha) never says that pain of nerve is a different issue than Buddhism.” (Hasebe's translation)

During the sleepless nights when we shed tears alone because of pain and fear, no one in this world can understand our loneliness, but Amida Buddha is there for us. Also, sometimes we can't do anything for our loved one who is suffering, but we are all embraced by the Great Compassion. Sometimes, we may have to walk our path with tears, but the path is always together with Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu



Hawaii Betsuin FEBRUARY 2024 Speakers Schedule

February 4

Japanese: Rev. Furusawa
English: Scout Sunday with
Rev. Kihara

February 11

Japanese: Rev. Nakasone
Sakata
English: BWA Dana Day
with Rev. Furusawa

February 18

Japanese: Rev. Muneto
English: Special Service
with guest speaker Mr.
George Takei

February 25

Japanese: Rev. Hasebe
English Service: Rev. Kalu



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044.

DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication by e-mail (goji@hawaiibetsuin.org), mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813) or fax (808-536-0919). 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.

The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Betsuin.

GOJI STAFF:

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Betsuin BWA Needs Your Donations for Rummage Sale!

Wendie Yumori

The Betsuin BWA sends a heartfelt mahalo to all of our members and friends who have, in past years, generously donated countless items for the Rummage Sale of Hawaii Betsuin's Taste of Hongwanji Spring Bazaar. Although our desire to assist the Betsuin with its fundraising is as strong as ever, our members are getting a little older and are moving a little more slowly, so we need to ask for more assistance with set-up, sorting, and pricing. Please contact Liane Wong through the Betsuin office to volunteer for any task at the rummage sale!

For the Rummage Sale, we would be most grateful for donations of items in good, saleable condition, especially in the following categories:

All Clothing: Men's, Women's, Children's, and Babies'

Shoes: Men's, Women's, Children's shoes in good condition

Accessories: scarves, belts, purses, jewelry, etc.

Linens: bed linens, table linens, curtains, etc.

Housewares: dishes, bowls, glassware, stove cookware, microwaveable cook ware, storage containers, etc.

Small Appliances: kitchen and home appliances, in working condition, please!

Sporting Goods: golf clubs, balls, bags, fishing rods, tennis racquets, bikes, skates, coolers, lanterns, wheeled toys, etc.

Fabric & Craft: fabric yardage, yarn, beads, baskets, unused craft kits, etc.

Sewing: supplies in good condition

Toys: children's toys in good condition; children's books.

Electronics: calculators, etc. no computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, etc. (schools may accept these items if they are not too old),

In addition, many patrons come to the Betsuin BWA Rummage Sale in search of Asian items, either in the Rummage Sale Treasures section or at the Bontique in June so we would love to receive the following items:

Japanese clothing: adult and children's kimonos, yukatas, happi coats and accessories, etc.

Asian art: scrolls, woodblock prints, paintings, prints, etc.

Asian collectibles: statues, display pieces, lacquer ware, etc.

Asian ceramics: dishes, bowls, tea sets, etc.

Asian objects: trays, fans, coin purses, decorative knick-knacks, etc.

Ikebana: vases, containers, kenzans (frogs), flower clippers

We cannot accept: medical supplies, canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, shower or toileting aids, etc., baby cribs, bassinets, car seats, carriers, playpens, strollers, etc. (baby clothing, blankets, and toys are welcomed), large serving platters, knives, lotions, perfumes, and underwear of any kind. No perishables, please! We cannot accept any dolls in glass cases; childrens' play-dolls in good conditon are acceptable.

Again, we wish to thank you for your wonderful support for so many years – you have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Rummage Sale and Bontique sales! Please call the Betsuin Office at (808) 536-7044 before coming to the Betsuin to ensure that someone will be available to open the Lotus Room and receive your donations. Please contact Jo desMarets at purpleldy2@aol.com for questions about donations. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Scout
Sunday
February 4th
at the 9:30 am
Service
Join the
Celebration!



Spring
Bazaar

and BWA
Rummage Sale



2024

Sunday

March 24th

Donations Needed!

Rummage Sale
Bake Shop Plants

Please contact the Betsuin office for
donations drop off dates and times!

BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

FEBRUARY 2024 BWA EVENTS

Feb. 3 8:30 am to 9:30 am; Hosha (help needed)

Feb. 11 BWA Dana Day Service

Feb. 11 BWA Drum Circle in the Lotus Room; 11:00 am

Feb. 17 BWA Executive Board meeting in person 9:00 am

Feb. 24 Honolulu United BWA Representatives meeting #1
9:00 to 11:00 am at Jikoen

Feb. 25 BWA do refreshments at Asaji and 9:30 am services

SHINRAN'S NAMES

By the time Shinran Shonin died at age 89, he had nine names given to him. His names were an expression of gratitude to the Nembutsu teachings, and especially to the Pure Land Masters for the gift of Amida Buddha.

On May 21, 1173, in Hino near Kyoto a young baby boy was born. His parents described the infant as, "a young boy grows as a pine tree," and named him MATSUWAKA-MARO. His father was Lord Arinori, and his mother Lady Kikko. He was a healthy baby, but never spoke a word until age two. The first words spoken were, "Namu Amida Butsu." When Matsuwaka Maro was four years old his father died and when he was eight years old, his mother died, leaving him an orphan.

Master Jichin took the young child under his wing and named him HANNEN. Han from his father Arinori Hino Nori, or Han. He was nine years old when given the Buddhist name of Hannen. He applied himself to learning religious training at Mount Hiei for twenty long years.

Honen Shonin picked the name SHAKKU from 4th Master, Do-Shaku and KU from 7th Master, Gen-Ku. The name SHAKKU was his third name. Conferred by vision of Prince Shotoku, from the 5th Master ZEN-DO and the 6th Master GEN-SHIN he received his fourth name of ZENSHIN.

In the year 1207, at age 34, he got his Secular name in Echigo. It was YOSHI-

ZANE FUJII. This was his fifth name.

Shinran chose for himself his name of TOKU, declaring himself neither monk nor layman. This then became his sixth name. His seventh name was GUTOKU. GU usually preceded Toku, meaning ignorant. Shinran considered himself to be ignorant so he added the Gu to his name.

In Echigo, Ten-Jin of the 2nd Master Jin = Shin and Don-Ran the 3rd Master awakened Gutoku and he called himself SHINRAN, which became his eighth name.

GUTOKU SHINRAN is the name he used the rest of his life. Shinran died on January 16, 1262 at age 89. This was his ninth name and we know him with his 8th and 9th names today.

YOUR LIFE IS A ONE-TIME GIFT, SO TREASURE IT.

Do you drink any liquid before going to bed at night? I asked my doctor why people need to urinate so much at night time. My cardiac doctor said, "Gravity holds water in the lower part of your body when you are upright (legs swell). When you lie down and the lower body (legs, etc.) is level with the kidneys, it is then that the kidneys remove the water because it is easier. You need your minimum water to help flush the toxins out of your body.

Drinking water at a certain time maximizes its effectiveness on the body.

Two glasses of water after waking up help activate the internal organs. One glass of water 30 minutes before a meal helps digestion. One glass of water before taking a bath helps lower blood pressure. One glass of water before going to bed helps avoid stroke or heart attack. It also helps prevent night time leg cramps. (Information from Mayo Clinic.)



HUMOR....YOU NEED TO USE YOUR BRAINS (anonymous contribution)

Riddles: 1. Why don't Buddhists vacuum in the corners? 2. What do you call a Buddhist monk who meditates in the snow? 3. What can travel all over the world without leaving its corner?

Answers: 1. Because they have no attachments. 2. Frozen. 3. A stamp.

18th Annual PBA Taiko Festival

Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$30 for students grades K-12 and seniors over 62. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Pacific Buddhist Academy at 808-532-2649 or email megan.lee@pbahi.org.

Hawaii Betsuin's 2024 MLK Day Observances: Service, Film, and Parade

Hawaii Betsuin once again honored Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King on his birthday weekend this year. On Sunday January 14, Betsuin held an MLK-themed service. In place of one of the gathas, we played the short video “Mutuality: A Buddhist Reflection on MLK” for our in-person and Zoom attendees (see honpahi.link/mlk2021). This video was produced by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in 2021 and connects excerpts of Dr. King's speeches with concepts in Buddhism. Rev. Furusawa's dharma message further linked MLK's aspirations and legacy with Amida Buddha's compassion and nondiscrimination. When the service concluded, people exited the hondo to a rousing (recorded) rendition of “This Little Light of Mine” sung by Odetta.

Following the service and a break, some sangha members returned to the hondo for a screening of *The March*, a documentary about the 1963 March on Washington. You can find the documentary by searching for “the march 1963” on YouTube. For the “I Have a Dream” speech, search for “I Have A Dream Full Speech Restored”.

The next day, a number of Hawaii Betsuin members and Rev. Charlene Kihara joined with other Honolulu District sangha members in the MLK Parade. We reprint here the writeup on the HHMH website:

On the sparkling morning of Monday, January 15, about 20 members of the Honpa Hongwanji ohana participated in the 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Parade through Waikiki. Carrying colorful signs and strings of origami peace cranes on bamboo poles, the group clearly communicated its gratitude for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his teachings of nonviolence, equality, and nondiscrimination.

Maintaining a tradition from years past, group members carried bags filled with origami peace cranes and presented the cranes one by one to delighted onlookers lining Kalakaua Avenue. A yellow Pacific Buddhist Academy school bus, driven by Head of School Josh Hernandez Morse, followed behind the walkers. A sign affixed to the front of the bus proclaimed “All Embracing Wisdom & Compassion” as colorful strings of peace cranes flew in the breeze outside the windows. Inside the bus were a few participants who chose to ride instead of walk.

The Hongwanji parade contingent was organized through the Social Concerns Committee of Honolulu Hongwanji Council. Each of the four temples in the Honolulu District — Hawaii Betsuin, Moiliili Hongwanji, Jikoen Hongwanji, and Windward Buddhist Temple — was represented. A number of Buddhist Women's Association

members participated, and the long BWA banner at the front helped clearly identify the group as Honpa Hongwanji. (Pacific Buddhist Academy students held their annual Run/Walk for Peace earlier in the weekend and did not attend this year, but may very well swell the ranks in 2025.)

We conclude this item the same way we concluded our video tribute to Dr. King produced in 2021: **“Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii treasures the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. May we continue to learn from – and be challenged by – his work and life's example. Namo Amida Butsu.”**

- Submitted by David Atcheson. Photos by Wendie Yumori and David Atcheson.



Trainer, Nancy Lee, Meets with Betsuin Board and Staff



The Betsuin Officers and Board of Directors underwent a day long Training on January 20th. Nancy Lee, certified board trainer and non-profit at-

torney from California, conducted the training with 32 directors and staff in attendance. She focused on best practices of exceptional boards

including core non-profit values, roles and responsibilities, effective governance and leadership, conflicts of interest, accountability and fiduciary duty, setting strategic direction, ensuring necessary resources and fundraising, constructive partnership between the Executive Director and Board, organizational lifecycle and revitalization, and more. We want to express our deep gratitude to Nancy Lee who offered her services pro bono and to Cristina Moon of Chozen-ji (Strategic Plan facilitator) who recruited Nancy. It was an invaluable learning experience for the Betsuin Board of Directors.

Pickleball Tournament to Support HHMH Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund!

Hawaii Betsuin is teaming up with the Oahu Pickleball Association to present a pickleball tournament to benefit Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Maui Wildfire Relief Fund!

Pickleball fans, save the date! The tournament will be Saturday, March 2, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. (exact time subject to change), in the Hongwanji Mission School Gym, 1728 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96813.

All proceeds will support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui, including addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple fami-

lies displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. We thank Rev. Blayne Nakasone Sakata for his initiative on this program.

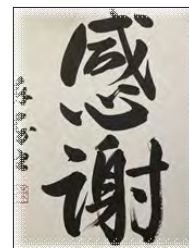


At this time, we are looking for volunteers to help (may include:

check-in area, warming up area, keeping the players notified on gametime, etc.). If you are interested, please contact the business office at (808) 536-7044. If you are interested in participating as a player, please stay tuned for more information.

Your family name and Buddhist concepts in Kanji

Makes a great holiday gift and family keepsake for younger generations. Standard custom artwork on 12x10" sheet is \$60. A scroll from Japan is an additional \$28.



Hiromi Peterson, Master Calligrapher and 2023 Living Treasure of Hawaii honoree, has generously offered her services as a fundraiser for Hawaii Betsuin.

For more information, please contact Jon Matsuoka at 808-536-7044 or jmatsuoka@hawaiibetsuin.org

Dharma School News

Debbie Kubota

On Sunday, December 10, Dharma School students decorated Bodhi Leaves and shared statements about what they are grateful for. Many thanks



to Thanh and Shally Giang for coordinating and conducting this project with our students.



Rimban Hasebe created a special Bodhi Tree poster with all of the students' leaves.

As a culmination to 2023, we celebrated with a Holiday Lunch on December 17 in the lounge. It was an intergenerational event, with the 9:30 am service attendees joining us for lunch and activities. We had a great turnout of Dharma School families. The Giangs once again coordinated and conducted this fun event, which in-



cluded making holiday crafts – candy cane reindeer, Santa hat and Christmas tree ornaments and “kiss”mas trees. We appreciate our parents helping us out with the crafts – Aileen Brennan, Eri Furuyama, Jan Nishihira and Sherry Takao. We had an onolicious lunch featuring chili, hot dogs, nachos and lots of dessert treats. We played Jan-Ken-Po with candy cane leis–winner take all and “musical” gifts–passing around white elephant gifts to music

with everyone getting a gift at the end. Ron Nishihira helped us at the hot cocoa station, making wonderful cups of hot chocolate with pirouettes, marshmallows and whipped cream. A wonderful event to

celebrate the holidays and the end of the year.

We are looking forward to kicking off our 2024 Dharma School year with a Pizza and Fun Night on Saturday, January 13. We'll start by having a service conducted by Reverend Shingo Furusawa, then we'll be making our own pizzas and having some fun activities. We've invited Dharma School families from the other Honolulu District temples to join us. We welcome all ages to join us too!

In 2024, we will be having both Sunday morning Dharma School activities and Saturday evening gatherings on a monthly basis. Please join us for fellowship, food and fun! Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends.

PLEASE JOIN US & GEORGE TAKEI AT HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAI'I BETSUIN HONDO

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2024

9:30am Special Service
"What Buddhism Means to Me"
 (Free admission)

5pm "George Takei Reflects on Day of Remembrance"
followed by food & entertainment at Pacific Buddhist Academy
 (Fundraising event - Tickets at \$150)

All proceeds will support social justice initiatives at the temple and other nonprofit organizations (including Spill the Tea)

Event presented by:
 Honolulu Hongwanji Council
 Pacific Buddhist Academy

Community partners:
 Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
 Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter
 Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
 University of Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Center



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
GEORGE TAKEI
 ACTOR/CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST



[HHHB.LINK/TAKEI](https://hhhb.link/takei)

For sponsorship information please contact: Jon Matsuoka at jmatsuoka@hawaiibetsuin.org

In Memoriam



DECEMBER 2023

The Hawai'i Betsuin extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members and friends find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 4/11/2022 | MIHATA, Helen Kimie (108) | 7 | FURUKAWA, Thelma Hanako (96) |
| 1/11/2023 | KAJIWARA, Etsue Edward (101) | | |
| 7/18/2023 | OKUBO, Barbara Yurie (101) | 8 | FUJINO, Amy Higashino (90) |
| 9/1/2023 | MORIMOTO, Kimie (104) | 8 | KIYOKAWA, Fusae Yamashita (94) |
| 10/5/2023 | FUJIEDA, Alice Nariko Matano (91) | 9 | FUJIOKA, Ellen Tatsuye (102) |
| 11/1/2023 | OZAMA, Mike Mikio (91) | 9 | MIRIKITANI, Mabel Misae (107) |
| 11/9/2023 | TOYAMA, Nancy Hanako (97) | 10 | MATSUKAWA, Carol Nanae (72) |
| 11/17/2023 | TAKAO, Chiyoko Asato (84) | | |
| 11/30/2023 | TERUYA, Myrtle Sumiko (80) | 11 | NAKAMURA, Masako (93) |
| DECEMBER 2023 | | | |
| 3 | IKUTA, Nancy Michiko (86) | 19 | FUJIO, Betsy Miyoko (93) |
| 4 | ISHII, Kenneth Kameo (97) | 20 | DOI, Stanley Toshio (88) |
| 5 | UYEDA, Gordon Kanji (87) | 20 | OKAWA, Mae Yuri (71) |
| 6 | FUKUMITSU, Raymond Isowo (89) | 23 | SHIGEMURA, Edith Tomiko (98) |

Radio Programs
KZOO (1210 AM)
Japanese Language,
SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM
FEBRUARY 2024

- 03..... Rev. Ryoso Toshima
- 10..... Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
- 17..... Rev. Shingo Furusawa
- 24..... Rev. Blayne Nakasone-Sakata

Information Regarding Sunday Services

Attendee limits for in-person funerals and memorial services are now based on room capacity and families' comfort levels. Other service options are available. Please call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044 for current information and to plan for your family's needs.

Services are open to in-person attendees and a Zoom option continues to be available for the 9:30 a.m. English-language Family Services. The 8 a.m. Japanese language services continue in person only.

Many past services are available for replay on the Hawai'i Betsuin YouTube channel. For current information on Betsuin services, including Zoom connection details, see the online calendar at hawaii-betsuin.org. You may also check the Betsuin Bulletin sent by email on Fridays (subscribe at hawaii-betsuin.org/email-signup/). Or, you can call the Betsuin office at (808) 536-7044.

Schedule of Monthly Nursing Home Services

Leahi Hospital

Service every 2nd Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Hale O Meleana

Service Every 2nd Friday at 10:30 A.M.

Hale Ho Aloha

Service Every 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 A.M.

Maluhia Hospital

Service Every 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 A.M.

2024 Memorial Service Schedule

2024 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2023: 1st year	2012: 13th year	1992: 33th year
2022: 3rd year	2008: 17th year	1975: 50th year
2018: 7th year	2000: 25th year	1925: 100th year

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