



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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MAY 2015

REQUEST FOR COMPASSIONATE AID FOR NEPAL

April 25, 2015, a Saturday in the mountainous Himalayan nation of Nepal, started like any other day, but it will be remembered with trauma and great sadness because of so many lost and injured lives, and the destruction of so much property including homes and centuries-old shrines and temples. At last count, the number of people killed by the massive earthquake that struck Nepal has surpassed 5,000 and according to some reports, over a million children are in need of aid. Many people are living outdoors for fear of entering weakened buildings and homes which may collapse due to aftershocks, but supplies are limited and people are struggling day to day. Those who are uninjured and able to help are helping those less fortunate.

In a Facebook message from Kathmandu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Jodo Shin Buddhist Minister Rev. Sonam Bhutia reports, *"We are fortunate that we lost no lives at the Kathmandu Hongwanji, however, as part of the Nepalese community we are saddened by the death and destruction that has come to our wonderful city."* He shares the destruction, despair and death left by the quake and reports that they are doing their best, as are others, to help those in need. He makes a sincere request for aid (funds), *"...with reverence and respect to all who would like to help, we hope for the world to respond to Nepal's dire needs with heartfelt aid to save our community. Please help Nepal and the Kathmandu community in our time of suffering. The funds raised will be used to help all without regards to religion or ethnicity, since we are all part of the world community and feel strongly that we must help each other in times of need."*

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Committee on Social Concerns has decided to make an emergency contribution for immediate aid and also embark on a special Nepal disaster relief drive called "Aloha for Nepal." All funds raised will go to Kathmandu Hongwanji and to the disaster relief organization, Mercy Corps.

On behalf of our State President Mr. Pieper Toyama, Committee on Social Concerns Chair Rev. Blayne Higa, and the Social Concerns Committee and myself, I would like to humbly ask our Members, Supporters and Friends for your compassionate help to lend aid to the people of Nepal. As Buddhists, we have a special connection with Nepal as it is the country of Sakyamuni Buddha's birth, but more importantly, let us help all our neighbors in Nepal in their time of need and immense suffering.

Namo Amida Butsu, Entrusting in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light. In Gassho,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Through your local temple. Make checks payable to **Your Temple** and designate **ALOHA FOR NEPAL** in the memo section. All donations will be forwarded to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters.
- Online through the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii website. Visit www.hongwanjihawaii.com and make a secure credit or debit card donation via Paypal.

Please send in your donations by Monday, June 1, 2015.

JINJI – PERSONNEL

- Rev. David Fujimoto, the Resident Minister of Puna Hongwanji Mission as well as the Overseer Minister of the Naalehu and Pahala Hongwanji Mission, will be assigned to Mililani Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister as of July 1, 2015.
- Rev. Sol Kalu, the Resident Minister of Makawao Hongwanji Mission, will resign from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of June 15, 2015.
- Mr. Jacob Chang, the Youth Specialist in the Office of Buddhist Education, will resign from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of June 5, 2015.

2015 YBICSE PARTICIPANTS

The following individuals are selected as participants of this year's YBICSE trip to Japan. This year's YBICSE is sponsored by Honzan and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. They will travel to Japan to attend the Honzan's program from July 12 to 24 where they will get to meet with other participants from US Mainland, Canada, and South America.

Participants (13):

1. Colin Kubota (Hawaii Betsuin)
2. Kerianne Kubota (Hawaii Betsuin)
3. Cameron Kubota (Hawaii Betsuin)
4. Tyler Yamanouchi (Hawaii Betsuin)
5. Katelyn Otani (Pearl City Hongwanji)
6. Tyler Oshiro (Mililani Hongwanji)
7. Evan Babcock (Mililani Hongwanji)
8. Kimberly Kamei (Hilo Betsuin)
9. Aleksander Bratton (Hilo Betsuin)
10. Kenneth Kitahata (Hilo Betsuin)
11. Kiaria Zo'I Nakamura (Hilo Betsuin)
12. Sheera Tamura (PBA)
13. Andrew Mori (PBA)

Chaperones (2):

1. Rev. Ai Hironaka (Lahaina Hongwanji Mission)
2. Mrs. Debbie Kubota (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)

PBA - Congratulations to the Class of 2015

The accomplishments of these wonderful young scholars were celebrated by hundreds of members of the PBA community at a Baccalaureate Service on May 7 and Commencement on May 8. Head of School Josh Hernandez Morse captured the spirit of this class in his moving dedication: "The Class of 2015 was a remarkable class. They took to heart the deepest truth of the PBA way: from school camp, to pep rallies, to the senior banquet, to Sports Day – we are an interdependent chain. We burnish each other. And as the senior lead, so goes the heart of the school."



Congratulatory Message from the Governor General of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Bishop Chiko Iwagami

To the members of the Graduating Class,

Congratulations class of 2015! As you are seated here, I am sure that you are reflecting on the many memories you have of the time you have spent here until today.

Graduation marks the end of one of many chapters in one's lifetime, and at the same time, it is also the starting point as you set off toward a new goal. As you take flight from Pacific Buddhist Academy, you will carry the memories of your days here at the PBA together with your hopes and dreams in the next phase of your life.

On this special occasion, I would like to share with you the spiritual legacy of this school, that is, the Buddhist concepts of *doryoku* and *shōjin*, which refers to “effort and devotion.”

Shōjin is a Buddhist term which expresses sincere efforts. Being lazy does not open new pathways. Laziness would bring you neither solution nor happiness.

According to records, Sakyamuni Buddha’s last words were as follows, “Fellow practitioners, this is the message I would like to leave for you. Nothing remains the same. Work ceaselessly and do not stop doing so.” Through these words, Buddha implies the importance of dedicating one’s lifetime to learning.

During the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, Japanese figure skater Mao Asada placed sixteenth in the women’s short program. This did not discourage her however, with her unfaltering determination, she not only regained her self-confidence but during the free skating portion the following day, she flawlessly executed jump after jump and even managed to break her own personal record. All of Japan was touched as she burst into tears, sending her words of praise and respect. Though it may be said that Asada was fortunate to have been gifted with such talent, she could not have managed to achieve such an outstanding comeback without the dedication and effort.

Among internet users who are known for their ruthless comments also praised Asada, where one blogger wrote “I could not stop crying. Those who devote themselves are forever beautiful.”

Giving it your all, while being careful. This is what we must always keep in mind. At times, things may go as planned, while other times it may be very challenging. In society, we have a tendency to value only the outcome. Therefore, it is natural to focus on only the results, however, though the results may not turn out as expected, do not let it keep you down for long, or continue dragging on this feeling with you. The same could be said for when things go well. Boasting about your achievement and staying in that state will not get you anywhere. It is important to continue aiming for your next goal and being able to continue moving forward. Only then, can one truly become an admirable and beautiful person in the true sense.

As you, the graduating class of 2015, continue to expand your wealth of knowledge, it is my hope that you will continue to nurture the spiritual legacy of this school of “effort and devotion” within each of yourselves throughout life, becoming a person of respect and characteristic beauty. Doing so, I am confident that a bright future will await you.

In closing, let me once again congratulate you on your graduation. Thank you.

May 7, 2015

HONPA HONGWANJI JUDO TOURNAMENT

The 56th Annual Honpa Hongwanji Judo Federation State championship Tournament will be held on September 5 and 6, 2015 on Maui. This year the tournament is hosted by Makawao Hongwanji Judo Club. This will be their first tournament as host since organizing the judo club a few years ago. The tournament site will be at King Kekaulike High School in Pukalani. The opening ceremony will start at 11:00am at the tournament site.

There will be nine Hongwanji Judo clubs participating; Aiea Hongwanji Mission, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, Kona Hongwanji Mission, Makawao Hongwanji Mission, Mililani Hongwanji Mission, Pearl City Hongwanji Mission, Puna Hongwanji Mission, and Wailuku Hongwanji Mission.

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII

The purpose of the Living Treasures of Hawai’i™ is to recognize and honor individuals who have demonstrated excellence and high standards of achievement in their particular field(s) of endeavor, and through their continuous growth, learning and sharing, have made significant contributions towards enriching our society.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. Demonstrates continuous growth and learning in one's area of strength.
2. Shares consistently one's knowledge and understanding with others in particular field(s) of endeavor.
3. Makes significant contributions towards enhancing society resulting in a more harmonious and compassionate society for all.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

An organization or person may nominate a candidate for this recognition by submitting a nomination form with information on the nominee. The nomination form is available at the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Headquarters Office located at 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or on our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com. Completed nominations may be submitted in the following manner:

- By mail.
- By fax – (808) 522-9209.
- By email – admin@honpahi.org
- Dropped off during office hours.

The completed nomination must be received by the Living Treasures Committee no later than **August 1st**. Presentation is made in February of the following year. For additional information, please call our office at (808) 522-9200.

Obon season is approaching!

Please find the Obon Schedule and we hope you will join in this annual celebration at the temple(s) near you.

For more detail, please call the temple office.

Call for submission;

HMH Calendar Committee is encouraging individuals as well as groups (families, Dharma School, Jr. YBA, BWA, etc.) to submit their creative works of art for the calendar to express the five year theme and 2016 slogan:

Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)

The deadline for submission is September 9, 2015.

Please submit to Alan Kubota at alan.kubota@pbahi.org

Shoshinge & Wasan Book

is now reviewed/reviced and is available for your temple/family usage.

Price: \$22.00

(Temple members will receive 10% discount).

Please call HQ Bookstore at 522-9202

May 21

Gotan-E Celebration

Birthday of Shinran Shonin

(May 21, 1173 – January 16, 1263)

DONATION TO HONPA HONGWANJI

You can now make a donation to Honpa Hongwanji through online with your Credit Card. Please visit our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com and click "Donation to Honpa Hongwanji" on the main page. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowable by law.