



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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AUGUST 2015

### 2015 Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE)

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii participants and chaperones enjoyed a wonderful trip to Japan for this year's YBICSE program from July 12-24. Youth participants were Evan Babcock and Tyler Oshiro from Mililani; Katelyn Otani from Pearl City; Alecsander Bratton, Kimberly Kamei, Kenneth Kitahata and Zo'i Nakamura from Hilo Betsuin; Andrew Mori and Sheera Tamura from Pacific Buddhist Academy; and Cameron, Colin, Keri Kubota and Tyler Yamanouchi from Hawaii Betsuin. Chaperones were Reverend Ai Hironaka from Lahaina Hongwanji and Debbie Kubota from Hawaii Betsuin.



The Hawaii contingent had a great sendoff at the Honolulu Airport, as Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani were there to greet the participants (along with their parents) and the chaperones, and to wish them well on their journey. Hawaii participants were fortunate to have additional sightseeing adventures coordinated by the Japan Travel Bureau (JTB), in addition to the formal YBICSE program. First stop was Tokyo, where the group visited the East Garden of the Imperial Palace, Asakusa, Tokyo Sky Tree, Harajuku/Shibuya/Takeshita Street, Tsukiji Betsuin and Tsukiji Fish Market. Next, they traveled to Kyoto for the YBICSE program, and enjoyed meeting other participants from BCA, Canada and South America. There



were 10 Hawaii participants for the Confirmation Rites, performed by the Former Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani. The YBICSE group was extremely fortunate to have a group photo as well as an audience with the Gomonshu, His Eminence Kojun Ohtani. Study sessions were conducted at the Honzan about the Buddhist concepts (Six Paramitas) and Shinran Shonin, and rituals (such as the proper way to bow and to offer incense). Excursions were conducted to important sites in Shinran Shonin's life and to the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum. While visiting the Ohtani Mausoleum, Reverend Hironaka performed a brief service with the Hawaii group in the section dedicated to the remains of those from Hawaii. During free time in Kyoto, the Hawaii group was able to enjoy the annual Gion Matsuri and visit the Fushimi Inari Shrine. The youth participants spent 2 days on homestays with local host families from the Kobe area, and had a joint activity session with Kobe Ryukoku High School. During the YBICSE program, the group visited several temples, including Hiroshima Betsuin and Kobe Betsuin. It was a sad parting for the international YBICSE sangha to say goodbye to each other at the end of the program. They are fortunate that with today's social media capabilities (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), it is easy for them to stay connected with their newfound friends from around the world.

After the close of the formal YBICSE program, the Hawaii group was again fortunate to have additional touring planned by Hawaii Kyodan and JTB. The group traveled to Osaka for an overnight stay and visits to the Osaka

Aquarium Kaiyukan, Shinsaibashi/Doutonbori Street, Tsumura Betsuin, Soai High School, Osaka Castle and Rinku Town. Upon arrival back in Honolulu, the group was welcomed by Reverend Umitani and his daughters, Naho and Riho, along with the participants' families for a wonderful homecoming.

Hawaii participants and chaperones had a fabulous time and would definitely encourage future participation of Dharma School and PBA students. Many, many thanks to the Kyodan for their wonderful support of this incredible program opportunity!

(Debbie Kubota – Hawaii Betsuin)

## RYUKOKU SOGO GAKUEN SEMINAR 2015

Through the generosity of the Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen, students from Pacific Buddhist Academy were fortunate to travel to Japan as participants at the Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen Religious Seminar in Kyoto. Seniors Jaysen Holmberg, Kelly Ngo, and Skyler Nishiyama were selected as representatives from PBA and interacted with students from several Japanese High Schools. Students learned how to properly chant and sing traditional gathas, took part in group discussions about "Finding the Richness and Warmth in Life," and created presentations with other students from Japan. Students also toured temples at Mt. Hiei and learned about the history of the Hongwanji during a visit to the Nishi Hongwanji complex.

The friendships the students made were reflected through their group presentations. Skyler and Jaysen's group placed first and Kelly's group came in second. Both groups worked as a team, shared ideas, embraced each other's differences, and overcame a language barrier. Although PBA students reported that they gained a lot from the seminar, many Japanese sensei remarked that they learned a great deal from the PBA students. One sensei in particular noted that he's always enjoyed the traditionalism of the Japanese educational system, but he was very impressed with our students' ability to freely express their opinions during discussion sessions. He noted that they have great depth to their thoughts and wishes his students were as confident to express themselves as our students do.

It was an unforgettable experience for the group and we would like to thank the Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen for providing this opportunity to PBA. We would also like to thank Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani of Honpa Hongwanji HQ, Ms. Aya Honda of Hyogo University, Reverend Masako Sugimoto and Reverend Tomo Fujii of Hongwanji International Center for their assistance during this trip.

(Liane Vilorio – PBA)

## 2015 PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET: Invitations Are in the Mail!

Pacific Buddhist Academy's tenth Annual **Lighting Our Way Banquet** will be held **Friday, October 2**, at the **Waialae Country Club** at 5 p.m. This year's distinguished honorees include **Satoru Abe**, one of Hawaii's best known sculptors and painters; **Frederick Nonaka**, past President of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and first Board Chair of PBA; **Dr. Robert Peters**, early childhood educator and former Head of School at Hanahauoli; and **L. Candy Suiso**, creator of the successful Searider Productions at Waianae High School.

Click [here](#) to learn more about [benefits](#) for **Table Sponsors** at the 2015 Lighting Our Way Banquet!

We are accepting donations for the Lighting Our Way Banquet **Silent Auction**. Click [here](#) to download a [Silent Auction donation form](#).

Please contact Rüdiger Rückmann at 532-2649 or [rudiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org](mailto:rudiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org) to purchase a seat or sponsor a table. To contribute an item for the Silent Auction, please call or write Debbie Martin, 532-2649, or [debbie.martin@pbahi.org](mailto:debbie.martin@pbahi.org)

## 2015 PEACE DAY RELATED EVENTS

District	Temple	Event	For more info
Honolulu	PBA	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Day Interfaith Celebration – Building Peace</b> Date: September 18, 2015 Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm Place: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin	Liane Vioria (PBA) 532-2649 <a href="mailto:Liane.vioria@pbahi.org">Liane.vioria@pbahi.org</a>
Oahu	Pearl City	<b>Peace Day Service</b> Date: September 20, 2015 Place: Pearl City Hongwanji Mission	Pearl City Hongwanji Mission 455-1680
Oahu	Mililani	<b>Peace Day Festival for families</b> Date: September 19, 2015 Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm Place: Mililani Hongwanji Mission	Mililani Hongwanji Mission 625-0925 <a href="mailto:dharm.connection@gmail.com">dharm.connection@gmail.com</a>
Oahu	Wahiawa	<b>Peace of Bell Ceremony</b> Date: September 11, 2015 Time: 8:30am Place: Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission	Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission 622-4320 <a href="mailto:office@wahiawahongwanji.org">office@wahiawahongwanji.org</a>
Kauai	Kapaa	<b>Interfaith Round Table</b> Date: September 20, 2015 Time: 2:00pm-6:00pm Place: Lydgate park Main pavilion Speaker: Jim Jung (Former state attorney)	Kapaa Hongwanji Mission 822-4667
Kauai	West Kauai	<b>International Peace Day Celebration</b> Date: September 21, 2015 Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm Place: Talk Story Theater Sparky's Garden Candlelight walk to Hanapepe Soto Zen	West Kauai Hongwanji Mission 335-3195
Hawaii	Kona	<b>Peace Day Service sponsored by Kona Hongwanji Jr. YBA</b> Date: September 20, 2015 Time: 9:00am Place: Kona Hongwanji Mission	Kona Hongwanji Mission 323-2993
Hawaii	North Hawaii 4 temples	<b>Honokaa Community Peace Week (9/20-27)</b> 9/20, 3pm: Autumn Higan and Peace Day Service at Honokaa Hongwanji 9/21, 3pm: Golden Chain of Love mural painting at Hamakua Youth Center 9/21, 5pm: Read for Peace in Honokaa Library 9/23: Peace Day Movie Night at People Theater 9/25: Peace Poster Gallery Kickoff Event 9/26: Peace Parade (4pm) Peace Day Festival (5pm) Featured speaker Rev. Hagio 9/27: Mindfulness: The Everyday Path of Peace, Health and Wellbeing Instructor: Gavin Harrison Place: Honokaa Hongwanji Time: 9am -3:30pm	<a href="http://www.peacedayparade.org/">http://www.peacedayparade.org/</a>

## ALOHA FOR NEPAL – UPDATE

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii created the “Aloha for Nepal Fund” in response to the massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake that devastated the country of Nepal on April 25, 2015. This disaster left thousands dead and injured countless more. The people of Nepal have begun to rebuild over the months since the earthquake with the help of relief organizations.

Hawaii Kyodan responded immediately by donating an initial \$10,000 to Kathmandu Hongwanji and \$5,000 to the disaster relief organization, Mercy Corps.

**The “Aloha for Nepal” campaign was a tremendous success. The outpouring of aloha from our friends and supporters, allowed us to raise a total of \$38,552.92!**

Of this amount, we were able to distribute a total of \$38,471.64 which was the net after online processing fees. Kathmandu Hongwanji and Mercy Corps received additional funds to support the work they are doing to rebuild Nepal.

**Mercy Corps:       \$25,716.64 + \$5,000 = \$30,716.64**  
**Kathmandu Hongwanji:   \$12,755.00 + \$10,000 = \$22,755.00**

Updates on relief efforts in Nepal can be found online at the following:

**Kathmandu Hongwanji Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/hongwanji.nepal?fref=ts>

**Mercy Corps Website:**

<http://www.mercycorps.org/articles/nepal/recovery-continues-three-months-after-nepal-earthquake>

Your donations are having a direct impact on the lives of people in Nepal as they recover from this disaster. Mahalo for your generous support!

(Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair, Committee on Social Concerns)

## HQ Bookstore Update

HQ Bookstore recently started to sell new items! **Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii original Grocery Tote Bag (\$3.00)** and **Insulated Tote Bag (\$8.00)** are now available for purchase. Both Bags are big and very useful for your grocery shopping. If you would like to buy these bags, please stop by HQ Bookstore or contact Yoshiko at (808) 522- 9202 or send e-mail to [hqbooks@honpahi.org](mailto:hqbooks@honpahi.org).



We also sell a cute **Life is Wabi-Sabi, Dharma Cat Tote Bag (\$5.00)**.

