



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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**MAY 2018**

### INTRODUCTION OF A NEW MINISTER

Rev. Kerry Kiyohara is *kaikyōshi* minister serving the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. He received *tokudo* ordination in 2016, graduated Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin Seminary and received *kyōshi* certification in 2018.

Rev. Kerry Kiyohara previously built profitable brands and businesses over two decades as a creative copywriter, corporate executive, and strategy consultant. He graduated with BA and MBA degrees from University of Southern California, and worked in Tokyo, Beijing, and Shanghai.

Rev. Kerry Kiyohara speaks English, Japanese, basic Spanish, survival Chinese, and struggles with *da kine* Hawaiian Creole English. He is very happy to be called 'grandpa' by a precious six-year-old granddaughter.



**Rev. Kerry Kiyohara is currently taking the New Minister's Orientation at Headquarters and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. He will be assigned to Makawao Hongwanji Mission on Maui as its Resident Minister as of June 1, 2018.**

### COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

**From: Dean Sakamoto, Chair of the Committee on Social Concerns**

The Office of the Bishop and the Committee on Social Concerns (CSC), together, have been in contact with temple ministers and presidents for flood damage assessments on the Island of Kauai and Oahu and for volcanic disaster related impacts on the Island of Hawaii. While we have not received reports of any temple damages, unfortunately, we have been advised that some temple members from Kauai have been impacted by the flood and several temple members on the Island of Hawaii have been impacted by the volcano disaster.

"Omimai", a Japanese custom that is often used to enquire (inquire) and call or visit someone who is ill, such as when visiting someone in the hospital. The CSC uses the term "Omimai" to reach out and respectfully express our concern to a member (or a temple) who have experienced some type of unexpected hardship such as property damage from a disaster.

At the May 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting, the CSC reported the following Emergency Disaster related actions (coordinated with the Office of the Bishop):

- A. A donation of \$4,000 to Kauai Hongwanji Council (KHC) with KHC to determine and distribute funds to organization(s) and/or individual(s) working towards flood disaster relief efforts on Kauai. Suggested list of organizations was provided by CSC to KHC.
- B. A donation of \$1,000 (via Kapaa Hongwanji) to the Hanalei Nihonjin Kai Cemetery (5013c) damaged by flood. Kapaa Hongwanji will coordinate and distribute funds.
- C. Omimai of \$500 to a Kapaa Hongwanji member affected by the flood (property flooded).
- D. Omimai of \$500 to a Kapaa Hongwanji member affected by the flood (property flooded).
- E. Omimai of \$500 to a West Kauai Hongwanji member affected by the flood (property flooded).
- F. A donation of \$1,100 to the Hawaii State VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster)

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii continues to assess the volcano disaster impacts to our members (and temples), and because of the unpredictable nature and the potential damages that an active volcano may cause, this assessment will take some time as conditions continue to change over time. We have initially requested the Hawaii Island temple ministers and presidents at Puna Hongwanji and Hilo Betsuin to keep the Office of the Bishop and the CSC informed as information becomes available, and also to provide assistance to those in need to the extent that a temple or a member is able to provide.

At this time, the CSC is not planning to set-up a special collection and will rely on available funds from the Social Welfare Fund which is replenished through donations from annual Social Concerns fund drives. We are grateful for the generous donations from our members and the CSC will continue to monitor the fund balance to ensure that a minimum level remains available in the fund, especially considering the 2018 Hurricane season will approach soon.

It is understandable that members may want to make a donation with good intentions to help, and our Hawaii Island committee representative, Mr. Ken Okimoto, advises: “Before you donate, pay attention to what kinds of donations are requested; be sure who or what responsible group is willing and able to handle your donation; don't just donate whatever to whoever.”

Monetary donations are usually quicker, easier to coordinate, and allows maximum flexibility for the recipient to meet unmet needs. It is the donor's responsibility to research an organization or a fund is valid and will be used for disaster relief efforts before a donation is made. If any assistance is needed, please contact the CSC.

I would also like our members to know that the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is an official member of the Hawaii VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). The Hawaii VOAD consists of non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, and partner government agencies. Please visit: [www.hivoad.communityos.org](http://www.hivoad.communityos.org) for information. Also, information on the Puna lava flow can be found at [www.punalavaflow.com](http://www.punalavaflow.com). Disaster preparedness is everyone's responsibility.

## **ESHINNI 750<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL SERVICE**

In April, Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Hawaii Federation BWA president Lois Toyama attended the 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service for Eshinni-sama. The services were held at Honzan over a two-day period. Representatives from the World Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations participated in a very formal processional at the beginning of the service. Japanese BWA representatives dressed in beautiful kimono, and

all the representatives wore the beautiful blue montoshikisho embossed with magnolia that are the official montoshikisho of the BWA.

Gagaku musicians opened the service as many ministers marched in wearing their formal attire. Three hundred members of the Japan BWA, as well as many others who wished to honor Eshinni, filled the hall. After one service, the president of the Japan Federation of BWA read a narration of the life of Eshinni and Shinran. This reading was interspersed with four songs that capture their life in Echigo and the continuing legacy of Eshinni.

Immediately after the second service, the World BWA Representatives traveled to Echigo (modern day Niigata) to visit the area where Shinran Shonin and Eshinni-sama spent many years. They saw cold, windy Kotogahama Beach where Shinran was exiled. They visited Kokufu Betsuin which stands on the site of Takegahana Cottage where Shinran and Eshinni once lived. Bishop Matsumoto and Lois placed lei at the stone pagoda which is believed to be Eshinni's burial site.

Fittingly, at the World Federation BWA meeting which was held in conjunction with the Eshinni 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial services, representatives voted on a resolution to honor Eshinni and her daughter Kakushinni. An Eshinni-Kakushinni Endowed Chair will be established at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. There will be a worldwide campaign to raise a \$3 million endowment. The interest from this endowment will be used to hire a professor at IBS. This position will honor the impact which Eshinni and Kakushinni had on the establishment of the Hongwanji and will train future ministers who will promote the vision and passion of these two women.

A donation of \$300 (30 people giving \$10 each) from every temple around the world will make this dream a reality. BWA Presidents and temple presidents will be asking for donations at your temples. We hope that everyone will join in this opportunity to honor Eshinni-sama during this year of her 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial and to spread the Dharma for future generations.

## **BWA STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO JAPAN IN 2019**

Every other year, we send two female delegates to Japan as exchange students in compliance with a resolution adopted during the Third World Buddhist Women's Convention held in Honolulu in June 1967. The stated aim of the resolution was "nurturing future leaders for Jodo Shinshu women's activities through exposure to Buddhist culture in Japan, oriental culture and youth movement and as a mission of good will.

Seeking Delegates for the 2019 Exchange Program

**What:** Student Exchange Program to Japan

**When:** Late July to early August 2019 (14 days)

**Who:** Two Hawaii women, ages 17–23 years old

**Why:** Be exposed to Buddhist and Asian culture; Be a missionary of good will

***Applications must be received at the address above by October 31, 2018.***

If you have any questions, call 808-522-9200 or contact a BWA member. Click here for more information:  
<http://hawaiiowa.org/programs/student-exchange/>

## HQ BOOKSTORE UPDATE

### **“Moving Forward Just As You Are –Living in These Uncertain times-”**

**Written by Monshu Kojun Ohtani**

**Sell Price: \$10.00**

This book was written by 25<sup>th</sup> Monshu (Head Priest) Kojun Ohtani of Honzan (Nishi-Hongwanji) and was originally published in Japanese in the title “*Arinomamani, Hitamukini*” in September 2016.

Its English version, “Moving Forward Just As You Are” was recently published by Hongwanji Office, Berkeley, CA. English Translation was done by Rev. Takashi Miyaji who is a Kaikyoshi Minister at BCA.

Monshu Kojun Ohtani wrote, “*In this book I will talk about my thoughts on how to live “moving forward just as we are,” so that we are not led astray by our wavering hearts or the chaotic world we live in. We do not have to feel like we always need to be in control of our lives. In Fact, our worries and concerns in life are the stepping stones to finding the true source of strength. I sincerely hope that this easy to understand reading can in some way lead to great joy for anyone who may be bearing on one’s shoulders the many fears and anxieties of life.*”

### **“Searching for Mary Foster”**

**written by Dr. Patricia Masters**

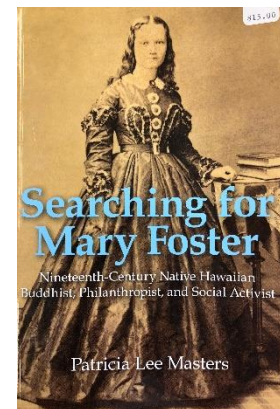
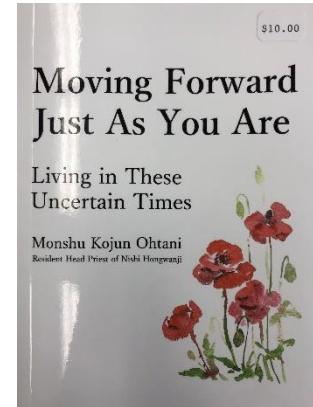
**Selling Price: \$15, 00**

This book is published by American Buddhist Center and distributed by Buddhist Study Center. Chapter 7 is devoted to the Pure Land and Mary Foster’s connections to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and Bishop Yemyo Imamura.

Forewords from the book:

*“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 greatest benefactors of Buddhism in the world including Jodo Shinshu in Hawaii.” (Bishop Eric Matsumoto, HHMH)*

**Please stop by HHMH Bookstore at HQ office to buy new books or contact with Yoshiko at (808)522-9202 or [hqbooks@honpahi.org](mailto:hqbooks@honpahi.org) to order. HHMH Bookstore offer 10% off price for the orders from HHMH temples and ministers.**



## HONGWANJI JOINT CONFERENCE

Don't miss out! Two hundred eight of your fellow members have signed up for the first ever Hongwanji Joint Conference from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ala Moana Hotel. But don't worry... there's always room for you! Registration is open until July 20<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available on the Hongwanji website or from your temple president.

The theme, “Embrace Change – Harmony (Accept Differences)” gives you the opportunity to select from a wide variety of workshops. Express harmony in music with taiko, chanting, ukulele, and gatha singing. Deepen your awareness of harmony in Buddhism by learning Buddhism through contemporary songs, by attending a panel of ministers who will speak on peace and harmony in Buddhist teachings, by participating in a discussion of Monshu Kojun Ohtani’s new book, or by taking a photography session and learning to see with fresh vision.

You can explore harmony in society in workshops on issues being addressed by our social concerns committee, on LGBTQ awareness, on green Hongwanji, and on Islam in a panel presentation by members of the Manoa Mosque.

These are just a sampling of the workshops available. We hope you’ll take advantage of these opportunities to deepen your awareness and sense of interconnectedness. We are so fortunate to have so many people willing to share their skills and knowledge with us.

Of course, in addition to services and workshops, there’s the opportunity to talk story with your friends from across the state. Saturday night is a free night, and the Okinawan Festival is just down the block at the Hawaii Convention Center. Sunday night is our banquet with great food and good entertainment. It’s a weekend not to be missed... see you there!