



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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SEPTEMBER 2018

HONGWANJI JOINT CONFERENCE

“Overall, the convention was positive and brought us more together as a Sangha. We got to meet others we would never meet at individual conventions, and the best part was, it was FUN!” This comment by one of the almost 300 participants in the Hongwanji’s first Joint Conference captures the feeling that so many others expressed.

The conference, with the theme “Embrace Change – Harmony (Accept Differences),” brought together Lay, BWA, Dharma Educators, Jr. YBA, and Ministers’ Spouses as well as interested temple members on September 1-3, 2018 at Ala Moana Hotel and Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. The intergenerational makeup of the conference brought a palpable energy and created an awareness of belonging to a larger community.

Keynote speaker, Lt. Gov. Doug Chin, set the tone for the weekend with his talk on social issues and social injustice. His talk was relevant and thought-provoking yet still down-to-earth and full of humor. This inspiring talk was followed by a dialogue between Lt. Gov. Chin and Bishop Matsumoto on how their spirituality impacts the decisions they make in their work.

Two days of workshops wove together harmony and accepting differences in many ways. Generations joined together to create music in taiko, ukulele, Gatha writing, and singing. They studied Buddhism in the Ministers’ panel, chanting, popular music, and the Gomonsu’s new book, *Moving Forward Just as You Are*. They explored ways to live more harmoniously through Blue Zones, Green Hongwanji, calligraphy, and social concerns workshops. They learned to accept differences in the Muslim panel and LGBTQ sessions.

The Jr. YBA members guided us smoothly through the weekend as our MC’s. They were so clear and professional. And then they wowed us with the entertainment they provided at the banquet. The banquet opened to cheers and laughter as Rene Mansho introduced the processional of committee members, ministers and guests, who hammed it up. She treated the ministers like the rock stars that they are! The banquet closed to young and old dancing to the tunes of Koa Kane.

Mahalo to everyone who planned, helped, contributed to, and participated in this memorable conference.

(Lois Toyama, Chair of the Joint Conference)



OBITUARY

Reverend Kenjyo Ohara, a retired minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away peacefully at his home in Mililani and returned to the Pure Land on August 5, 2018 at the age of 101. The Private Funeral Service was held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on Monday, September 10, 2018 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The Ingo (Posthumous Title) of Sho-Gaku-In 正覚院 has been conferred upon Rev. Kenjyo Ohara by the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Denomination in recognition of his exemplary achievements and accomplishments. "Sho-Gaku" means "One who attains Perfect Enlightenment."

Rev. Kenjyo Ohara became a Kaikyoshi Minister in 1941 and served the following temples; Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (04/1957 – 07/1959), Oloo Hongwanji Mission (08/1941 – 12/1945), Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (01/1946 – 08/1948), Papaikou Hongwanji Mission (09/1948 – 07/1978), and Waipahu Hongwanji Mission (also in charge of Waianae and Ewa Hongwanji Missions)(08/1978 – 03/1989). Rev. Ohara retired from the active ministry on April 1, 1989.

HMMH MINISTER'S LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT

Place: Buddhist Study Center

Date: October 12-14, 2018

Anyone who is interested and recommended by their Hawaii Kyodan minister mentor is welcome to apply.

Note: Anyone who is a member of a temple must be recommended by their resident minister.

Purpose: To review and enrich the knowledge of the participants in the rituals and traditions of the Nishi Hongwanji, General Buddhism and Shin Buddhism. All the knowledge and skills and more, that is associated with functioning as a Minister's Lay Assistant will be covered during the retreat. The retreat is an opportunity to learn and/or refresh one's skills and knowledge that is associated with the role of a Minister's Lay Assistant, but completion does not result in certification. Conditions of certification is presented in the document: Shin Buddhist Ministry in Hawaii. This retreat can be taken as many times as it remains meaningful and helpful to the participant. And completion does not imply an obligation to become a minister's assistant.

For more information and registration, please contact Buddhist Study Center at 808- 973-6555.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

The following temples are observing their anniversaries!

- KAILUA HONGWANJI MISSION – 50th Anniversary on Sunday, September 9, 2018.
- WAHIAWA HONGWANJI MISSION – 110th Anniversary on Saturday, October 21, 2018.
- JIKOEN HONGWANJI MISSION – 80th Anniversary on Sunday, November 18, 2018.

Congratulations!

RYUKOKU UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL HAWAII SEMINAR

11 graduate school students with Professor Eisho Nasu and Associate Professor Bunei Takada of Ryukoku University Shin Buddhist Studies visited various temples on the Big Island and Oahu from August 28 to September 5. They listened to lectures by Hawaii Kyodan ministers, participated in different activities and studied the significance of Jodo Shinshu propagation through learning how Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is being propagated in Hawaii. The following are comments from some of the participants:



“In the Hawaii Seminar, we had lectures from ministers and learned about Jodo Shinshu in Hawaii. In addition, we had opportunities to participate in different events and were able to meet many Hongwanji ministers and members. Thanks to all the lectures and experiences, we were able to learn a lot about Jodo Shinshu in Hawaii. Thank you.”

“I was deeply impressed when I attended the Sunday Service and the Joint Conference Closing Service with Hongwanji members. I live in a different country and use a different language. However, I sensed that Hongwanji members in Hawaii and I are looking in the same direction and receiving the same Nembutsu teaching. I was profoundly impressed by it. I am full of gratitude to ministers and members for their warm welcome. Thank you very much.”

“Through the Hawaii Seminar, I experienced different things that I cannot learn in Japan. When I participated in the Japanese Class, the Joint Conference and the Sunday Service, everybody warmly welcomed us. I felt the warmth in their hearts and am so grateful for the precious opportunity of meeting them. Thank you very much.”

RSG EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Ryukoku Sogo Gakuen (RSG) held the Educational Program for International Understanding at Pacific Buddhist Academy from August 2 - September 15. The object of this new program was to nurture individuals with an international orientation founded on Buddhist values and perspectives through deepening their mutual understanding of differing cultures and societies. 18 students from 10 RSG high schools in Japan had a homestay in Hawaii and attended PBA with the PBA students. The closing service of this program was held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

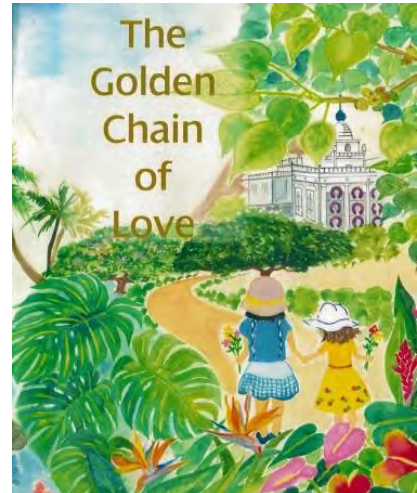


NEW BOOK "THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF LOVE"

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii published a new picture book, *The Golden Chain of Love*, in September 2018.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto wrote: "May "The Golden Chain of Love" continue to serve as a guide for many Buddhists throughout the world, perhaps even non-Buddhists who understand the principles found in it. For (Jodo) Shin Buddhists, may we in grateful response to All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion (Amida Buddha) hold dear "The Golden Chain of Love" and continue to be guided by it."

The books were distributed to the temples of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The books are also available at the HHMH Bookstore at HQ Office at a price of \$8.00.



ESHIN-NI – KAKUSHIN-NI ENDOWED CHAIR

The Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations is continuing its fundraising for the Eshin-ni – Kakushin-ni Endowed Chair at the Institute for Buddhist Studies (IBS) in Berkeley. The fundraising campaign seeks to raise \$3 million from Hongwanji Temples throughout the world by having each temple contribute \$300. Hawaii's share is \$11,000. As of this writing, we have raised about \$8,000. This endowment will create a faculty position at IBS which will be used to educate our future ministers.



Kylie Urasaki presents a donation to June Nakamasu, JBWA

The fundraising effort received a boost recently when Kylie Urasaki, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Alan Urasaki of Jikoen Hongwanji, presented a gift of \$300 towards the BWA effort. Kylie, a 2018 graduate of Aiea High School, wanted to give back to Jikoen temple with this generous gift. When asked what motivated her to do this, she said that her father graduated from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. She visited IBS last year when her family was in Berkeley, and she values the work that they do.

To all who donated, we thank you for your generous support! Fundraising will continue through December 31, 2018. If you would still like to donate, see your BWA president for information, or mail a check made out to HHMHFBWA to Karen Kikukawa, HHMHFBWA treasurer, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

Western Japan Flood Relief Fund

The Western Japan Flood Relief Fund special collection ended on August 31, 2018. Temples that have donations collected, please submit one check (to Headquarters) payable to “Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii” with “Western Japan Flood Relief Fund” noted on the check. The funds collected will supplement an earlier donation that was sent by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii to Honzan to support Hongwanji-related temples and those who were affected by this disaster.

2017-2018 Social Concerns Fund Drive

Temples that have donations collected for the 2017-2018 Social Concerns Fund Drive, please submit one check (to Headquarters) payable to “Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii” with “2017-2018 Social Concerns Fund Drive” noted on the check. Thank you very much for your generosity and support of this annual collection.

2018-2019 Social Concerns Fund Drive

The 2018-2019 Social Concerns Fund Drive will commence in November, 2018. Social Concerns envelopes have been distributed to all temples. If your temple would like to receive more envelopes, please contact your Committee on Social Concerns representative from your District. Thank you to ministers and members who hand carried their temple envelopes to assist with the distribution of envelopes.

Jr YBA Donations for Kauai Flood and Hawaii Island Volcano Eruption

The Federation of Jr. YBA donated \$660.00 to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, via Social Concerns, for relief efforts towards the Kauai Flood and Hawaii Island Volcano Eruption. The funds were raised from their annual auction during their Jr. YBA State Convention.

2017-2018 President Sheera Tamura (center) and 61st Annual State Convention Chair Zoi Nakamura (left) presented the donation to Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

