



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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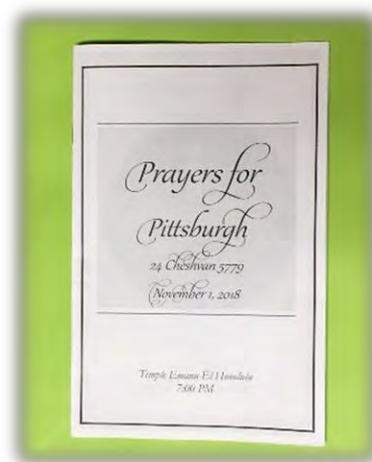
### A HUMBLE REFLECTION

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Office of the Bishop, would like to express our loving thoughts and condolences to those who are, directly and indirectly, most affected by the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania which took 11 precious lives. At this time, let us avail ourselves to All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion for guidance and comfort.

In the Smaller Sukhavativyuha Sutra, it mentions the Chaotic period of the Five Defilements in which tainted views, rejection of moral laws and the Law of cause-conditions-and-effect and an increase in anger, greed and ignorance arise, to name a few. Once again, we are made to painfully acknowledge that we live in a world in which confusion and chaos abounds and immense suffering prevails as we must confront the tragedy which struck on October 27, 2018. As we deal with the shock, loss and grief, may we seek guidance in the Wisdom of Enlightenment so that we may all understand the oneness of all Life and may we seek assurance in Unconditional Compassion so that we are motivated to non-violent ways and inspired by the saying from the Dhammapada "Hatred is not overcome by hatred. Hatred is overcome by love. This is an ancient truth."

On November 1, 2018, a special "Prayers for Pittsburgh" was held at Temple Emanu-El Honolulu to which a very diverse cross section of the community gathered to express sympathy and also show support for the Jewish Community. It was a service to honor those who were killed and also a time to comfort to those most affected according the Rabbi Ken Aronowitz. At the Service, prayers to the Divine were offered, the 11 individuals were dearly remembered and a touching Muslim response was also shared. Amidst the sorrow and sadness, there was also encouragement on how to transition from the grief and loss. As part of the Service, "When I Die" was read. In part, it reads "When I die give what's left of me away...And when you need me, put your arms around anyone and give them what you need to give me...Love doesn't die, people do. So when all that's left of me is love, Give me away." I was most touched by it. This reading tries to transform the tragic loss of life and its affect into something which helps to positively transform other people's lives. For me, as Jodo Shin Buddhist, I thought, it would be referring to the Love or Compassion of Amida Buddha which I find embracing me or the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu that is recited in Awareness, Joy and Gratitude.



A constant theme throughout the evening was hope. That, one day, there would be peace, harmony and contentment for all people. Despite the challenges we face living in samsara we must not give up. Just as Great Compassion or Love has not given up on us, we must have hope. As we find in our Jodo Shinshu's, *The Golden Chain of Love*, "I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others. May every link in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love be bright and strong and may we all attain Perfect Peace." The source of our hope is Wisdom and Compassion and our endeavor towards a more peaceful and harmonious world is our grateful response to that Wisdom and Compassion.

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light.

In gassho,

Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

### 2019 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The 2019 Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) will be held on February 8 & 9, 2019 at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. The Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition will be held on February 9, 2019 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort. The registration fee for both delegates and observers is \$100.00, and \$75.00 for the luncheon only. The Registration form and other documents that need to be submitted to HQ were already mailed to the temples and organization leaders. Please submit all the documents to HQ by the deadline described in the letter. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

### ANNUAL APPRECIATION GATHERING FOR THE RETIRED MINISTERS AND THEIR SPOUSES

The annual appreciation gathering for the Retired Ministers and their spouses was held on November 7, 2018. 11 retired ministers and spouses attended this year's gathering. The Opening Service was held at the Pacific Buddhist Academy Founders' Hall. It became an opportunity for some participants to see the new school building after its completion last year. At the service, Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Mr. Pieper Toyama expressed their appreciation on



behalf of the current active ministers and the members of HHMH. This service was also dedicated to the late Rev. Kenjyo Ohara who passed away this year. After the service, Mr. Josh Hernandez Morse, the Head of School, showed the school building.

## RYUKOKU KENSHINKAI VISIT

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii welcomed the visit of Ryukoku Kenshinkai from Japan on October 29. This group consists of Jodo Shinshu ministers who serve or once served a public body as a publicly elected member. Several Ryukoku Kenshinkai members and their family and friends came to Hawaii for their study and visited Moiliili Hongwanji Mission, Pearl City Hongwanji Mission, the Headquarters, Pacific Buddhist Academy and the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.



## SHARE PROGRAM IN HAWAII

Three Honzan (Mother temple in Kyoto) staff, Rev. Noriaki Kitabatake, Rev. Hikaru Nakao and Ms. Sara Izawa, came to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii through the Staff of Hongwanji Advanced Research & Education (SHARE) Program. During the three-month program, they are visiting the Buddhist Churches of America, the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including a presentation by the Bishop of the Jodo Shinshu Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Federation of South America to learn about the Overseas districts. They went through the training program in Hawaii from November 13 to 18.



*Picture taken at Honpa Hongwanji Mission School with: (from the left) Mr. David Randall, Mrs. Teddi Yagi, Rev. Hikaru Nakao, Ms. Sara Izawa, Rev. Noriaki Kitabatake and Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto.*

## COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

### Western Japan Flood Relief Fund

Thank you very much for your generous donations to the Western Japan Flood Relief Fund special collection. A total of \$21,628 has been collected and was sent to Honzan to support Hongwanji temples and members who were impacted by this disaster.

### 2018-2019 Social Concerns Fund Drive

The 2018-2019 Social Concerns Fund Drive have begun and once again we humbly ask for your support on this annual fund drive. A list of the donations that have been distributed in 2018 will be included with the Committee on Social Concerns annual report provided to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Legislative Assembly.

## Donation to Project Dana

A donation of \$2,112 was made to Project Dana for financial assistance to Maria Morales, a University of Hawaii at Manoa graduate student and Project Dana's Caring for the Caregiver Support Group Coordinator, to attend the Health, Wellness, and Society Conference 2018. The conference was held at Imperial College London held on September 20-21, 2018. Dr. Michael Cheang, Associate Professor of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Human Development and Family Studies, and Rose Nakamura, Founding Administrator of Project Dana, also attended the conference and they presented the research and data which was completed with Project Dana's Support Group members. After the conference, Cyndi Osajima, Project Dana Executive Director, and Maria attended the Committee on Social Concerns meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Maria provided a report on the conference to the committee members.



Donation presentation by Dean Sakamoto, Chair, Committee on Social Concerns, to Cyndi Osajima, Project Dana Executive Director

## BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN ACTION

BWA members around the state have been busy making the biennial theme "Dharma-Centered Leadership in Action" visible in their communities. As the Uniteds held their fall meetings and installed new slates of officers, they also featured the many things they do to make their communities more connected and caring.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Oahu United BWA sponsored a panel, "Changing Dynamics of Buddhist Women: Their Needs, Talents and Passions." Speakers were Kano Hashimoto of Wahiawa Hongwanji, a recent PBA graduate; Caroline Otani of Pearl City Hongwanji, an attorney and mother of two, and Rev. Yuika Hasebe of Hawaii Betsuin. They spoke of the friendships among women of the BWA and the importance of discovering and contributing your own skills and talents.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Kauai United members honored their ministers, Rev. Kaufmann, Rev. Hojo, and Rev. Majima, with a surprise appreciation ceremony. They presented the ministers with a lei and a gift card and then serenaded them with a special song, "Thank You," which was adapted by BWA member Gladys Fujiuchi. For Veteran's Day, they will be hard at work on their annual Lonesome Graves Project.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Hawaii Island United BWA held their 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at Puna Hongwanji. Mayor Harry Kim spoke of growing up in Ola'a (now Keaau) and of the importance of the Puna Hongwanji as a community center. Tracy Tsuha, president of Honomu Hongwanji, spoke of his experiences as a child growing up with connections to Honomu Hongwanji and of his journey back as an adult. Displays throughout the hall showed the many connections that the Big Island United has to the community. They are promoting the Blue Zones concepts of healthy eating, exercise, and community. They are also

collecting donations to alleviate suffering in their community caused by the many natural disasters which have hit recently.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Maui United held their annual Fall Assembly. They honored their ministers with beautiful lei made by member Sharon Nohara. Vietnamese Buddhist Nuns from the Buddhist Study Center in Kahului were invited to the meeting. Maui BWA members are looking forward to working with these nuns on future projects. Their Dana Award was given to Malama Recovery Center, an agency that works with substance abusing women. Maui members also brought towels, backpacks, sheets and other necessities to be shared with community agencies.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, members of Honolulu United will be visiting Kahauiki Village, a new plantation-style housing project for the homeless on Oahu. They will present a Dana Award to Duane Kurisu in support of this project.

Interested in all of the community service that the BWA is embracing? We welcome new members at whatever level you are able to participate. See your temple BWA president for more information.

*(Lois Toyama, President of the Hawaii Federation of BWA)*