



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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DECEMBER 2016

PERSONNELS

Rev. Satoshi Tomioka, who is currently serving at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister, will be assigned to Puna Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister effective February 16, 2017. He will also be assigned to Naalehu Hongwanji Mission and Pahala Hongwanji Mission as their Overseer Minister.

Ministers of the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin will be relieved from their responsibility of overseeing the Puna, Pahala, and Naalehu Hongwanji Missions effective February 16, 2017 upon arrival of their new Resident Minister, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka.

Rev. Sol Kalu will be assigned to Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as its Associate Minister effective March 1, 2017. In accordance with the "Shin Buddhist Ministry in Hawaii" document, Rev. Kalu will be initially categorized as "Resigned Kaikyoshi" during his first one (1) year of service.

Rev. Shinji Kawagoe and Mrs. Noriko Kawagoe of Papaikou Hongwanji Mission had received an approval from the USCIS of their applications to become a lawful permanent resident of the United States on December 1, 2016.

HILO BETSUIN'S 100TH MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LILI'UOKALANI, QUEEN OF HAWAII



KT Cannon-Eger and Barbara Fujimoto with Professor Jackie Johnson Debus as the Queen

This is an event that I will remember for a very, very, very long time. I had never ever seen representatives of so many Hawaiian organizations in their ceremonial dress enter a Hongwanji temple in formal procession. After the sounds of conch shell subsided, they walked in following protocol appropriate for a queen and her family and filled rows and rows of the temple's pews. A portrait of the Queen, surrounded with ti leaves and greenery fittingly gathered from Hilo's famous Lili'uokalani Gardens, stood on the left side of the onajin.

The Hilo Hongwanji and the Puna Hongwanji Choir gathered to open the service with the gatha, "Nori No Miyama." It was the first of two gathas the massed choir sang that was sung at the original service in 1901 at Hawaii Betsuin which Queen Lili'uokalani attended with Mary Foster. This marked the first time Hawaiian royalty attended a Buddhist service.

Representatives from each of the Hawaiian organizations participated in oshoko. I noted that their attention to the details of Jodo Shinshu's protocol for oshoko was precise, attentive and humble. I was impressed at their efforts to respect Hongwanji traditions.

Bishop Matsumoto, in his Dharma Message, recognized the Queen's courage in her non-violent response the overthrow of her government. Bishop Matsumoto pointed out that the Queen in her decision for non-

violence, represented the spirit of Prince Shotoku's words, "Let us cease from wrath and refrain from angry looks. Nor let us be resentful when others differ from us. For all people have hearts and each heart has its own leanings. Their right is our wrong, and our right is their wrong. We are not unquestionably sages, nor are they unquestionably fools."

Following the Dharma Talk, University of Hawaii at Hilo Professor Jackie Johnson Debus, entered the temple dressed as the Queen. She took my breath away. In my eyes, in that moment, she was the Queen. She performed a monologue, based on research by KT Cannon-Eger and Barbara Fujimoto, on the Queen's attendance to that 1901 service at Hawaii Betsuin. In her monologue, the Queen reflected on the details of that occasion and her thoughts and impressions of Buddhism. She also described her relationship to the Japanese who worked for her. It was extraordinary to hear the details of her feelings and her genuine respect for the Japanese community.

The service ended with the entire gathering singing *Aloha O'e*, a song she wrote. It was a fitting and very emotional moment for me.

The one thing that moved me above all else is the fact that this service brought together members of our community in a loving and gentle way that was respectful of diverse cultures and belief systems. It was a living moment of the truth of our profound interdependence with all beings.

(Pieper Toyama, President of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)

2016 VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

The sky was clear and the weather perfect for the largest Veteran's Day Parade in the state of Hawaii. The Wahiawa Lion's Club has sponsored this parade for 70 years and Wahiawa Hongwanji has partnered with them and has been an active participant in all those years.

Over 78 units marched in this 2-hour parade including the various military branches, island schools, their ROTC units and marching bands, and many other organizations. Marchers from the Wahiawa Hongwanji totaled 50+, including Bishop Eric Matsumoto and State Kyodan President Pieper Toyama, as well as 20 or more cheerleaders (those unable to make the uphill walk) who cheered from in front of the temple.



The approximate 2-1/2 mile walk up California Avenue ended at the Wahiawa District Park, where for the first time in the parade's 70-year history a Buddhist minister was invited to open the formal ceremony. For the past number of years Rev. Hashimoto has been doing the benediction to close the ceremony. This year Rev. Hashimoto had the honor of doing the invocation for this big community event.

Members from temples all over the island, including the Betsuin, Jikoen and Mililani, joined the Wahiawa members out on the field to assist Rev. Hashimoto by scattering flower petals during the chanting of the "Sanbujo." The "Sanbujo," used at the beginning of many formal services, welcomes all Buddhas for whom we joyfully scatter these flower petals.

During the chant Sensei not only explained each verse in English but also honored in gratitude all ancestors and veterans. It was a beautiful and moving experience that will be remembered by many in the audience especially those seeing this for the very first time.

(Dale Shimaura, Wahiawa Hongwanji)

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAII RECOGNITION

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will honor the following individuals as the 2017 Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ in recognition of their personal and professional achievements and their contributions to the community. We welcome you to celebrate this honor with them.

- Bishop Ryokan Ara
- Beatrice Kanahele Dawson
- Nobuko Kida
- Roy Sakuma
- George Yokoyama

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2017

Place: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom

Time: 11:00 AM Registration, 12:00 PM Lunch and Program

Attire: Aloha

Cost: Early registration - \$75.00 for payments received by January 28, 2017
Late registration - \$90.00 for payments between January 29 – February 5, 2017
(Reservations will NOT be accepted after February 6, 2017)

Sponsor Tables are available: Gold - \$5,000; Silver - \$3,000; Bronze - \$1,500

Please go to <http://hongwanjihawaii.com/living-treasures/> to download the registration form.

JODO SHINSHU CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Due to the success of our first Jodo Shinshu Career Development workshop, we are offering a second workshop on Saturday January 28, 2017 from 9a.m. -8p.m. Ms. Janelle Sasaki, executive director of Diversity & Inclusion Services for Ernst & Young Advisory Co., Ltd. Japan will be the guest speaker.

The workshop will include resume writing, interviewing with confidence, elevator pitches, social media marketing, and a networking dinner.

This workshop is open to college students, those who are just entering the workforce or those would like to improve their job skills for a career change. We will also be hosting 3 additional mentoring sessions throughout the year as a way to meet and bond with your selected mentor. An application form is included along with a flyer for posting. Join us in this exciting endeavor!

Please contact Jamie at the BSC for more information. (808)973-6555 or bscassist@honpahi.org

YESS CAMP 34

YESS Camp 34 will be held on April 14-16, 2017 at Camp Kokokahi on Oahu, Hawaii. This year's theme is YESS-topia and the guest speaker will be Rev. Satoshi Tomioka. This year's theme focuses around the Buddhist themes presented in the Disney movie *Zootopia*.

YESS camp is open to 13 year-23 years old, who are interested in learning more or growing deeper in Buddhism. The camp will have several talks by the guest speaker in which the campers will be asked to reflect on their daily lives. In the three days the campers will interact with other young Buddhists from around the state and hopefully for lifelong friendships.

An application form for camp is included. Though the camp is sponsored by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, if you would like to support the camp by placing an ad in the booklet please see the form that is included.