

# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

# **HEADQUARTERS UPDATE**

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**APRIL 2016** 

#### **CONDOLENCES**

- <u>Mrs. Kimiko Okano</u>, the wife of the late Rev. Ryoshin Okano and the mother of the Rev. Thomas Okano, passed away on March 14, 2016 at the age of 98. Mrs. Kimiko Okano received the Ingo (the Posthumous Title) of E-Gen-In 慧眼院 from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and this was presented to her family at the Funeral Service which was officiated by Rev. Bert Sumikawa, the resident minister of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission, on March 28, 2016.
- Rev. Chikai Yosemori, the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on April 13, 2016 at the age of 84. Rev. Yosemori served Paia/Makawao Hongwanji Mission (10/1964-8/1981) and Jikoen Hongwanji Mission (9/1981-2/1996) as their resident minister, and the State Headquarters as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (3/1996-2/2007). The Hawaii Kyodan-Sponsored Funeral Service, which is currently being coordinated by the Office of the Bishop, will be held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on Saturday, April 30, 2016 under the officiation of Bishop Eric Matsumoto. The visitation will start at 9:30am followed by the Funeral Service at 10:30am.

# THE 30<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERS' SPOUSES SEMINAR ON BIG ISLAND

The spouses of the Hawaii Kyodan ministers gathered together on the Big Island for their annual seminar (chaired by Mrs. Kumika Soga) on March 25-26, 2016. This was the first seminar after the association's official title was changed from "Ministers' Wives Association" to "Ministers' Spouses Association", and also 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary seminar of this association.

On the first day of the seminar, there were two workshops held after the opening service at Puna Hongwanji. In the first workshop, Bishop Eric Matsumoto explained the "Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha General Promotion Plan". Workshop 2 was "Making Lavosh" instructed by Mrs. Hisae Kubo at Puna Hongwanji kitchen. We also had Puna Hongwanji temple tour guided by Rev. Midori Kondo, and visited Tsunami Museum at Hilo. We strengthened mutual bond among each other through fellowship.

We visited the Farmers' market in the morning of the second day. The workshop 3 was the "Explanation of Robert's Rules of Order" by Hilo Betsuin Rimban Rev. Jeffrey Soga. Thanks to the useful information we had learned from the workshop, the General Membership Meeting, which was held after the workshop 3, was conducted in a more efficient and productive manner. To celebrate the Association's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary seminar,

we watched a special slideshow of the past seminars during lunch time.

We appreciate the ministers' spouses on Big Island for hosting this meaningful seminar. We also appreciate the ministers, office staffs, and members of Hilo Betsuin and Puna Hongwanji Mission for welcoming us warmly. Last but not least, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to Hawaii Kyodan and each temple for giving us this precious opportunity. As ministers' spouses we hope we can bring what we had learned at this seminar back to our temples.



# SOCIAL CONCERN DONATION TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Dean Sakamoto, Committee on Social Concerns Chair, presented a monetary donation to the American Red Cross Hawaii State Chapter, on March 21, 2016. The donation was made towards their International Relief Fund to support relief efforts for damage incurred at Fiji caused by Tropical

Cyclone Winston where over 6,000 residents were placed in emergency shelters after their homes were damaged or swamped.

The donation was presented to Ms. Coralie Chun Matayoshi, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Jennifer L. Dotson, Chief Development Officer (not in photo), and Mr. Scott Kramling, Fund Development Coordinator. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii have made donations in the past to the Red Cross to support relief efforts for Hurricanes Iselle and Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan, and other disasters.

The American Red Cross Hawaii Chapter will be observing their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017.



# HAWAII FAITH-BASED SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS

The IHS, Institute for Human Services, with a mission to support those who need help and to respect all people's rights to live safely and with dignity, held a faith-based Summit on Homelessness at Central Union Church on March 14, 2016, co-sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Hawai'i. The intention was to involve faith communities to better a) meet the needs of homeless persons on their property, b) partner with non-profit and government service providers, and c) assist ministers, who are rooted in faith, to implement best practices.

Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Social Concerns Committee Chairperson Dean Sakamoto, and Rev. Satoshi Tomioka represented Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i and attended the Summit. There were two plenary sessions and four workshops. The first plenary session by Connie Mitchell, IHS executive director was entitled "The changing face of homelessness: lessons learned during these past 37 years." The second session was by Doug Chin, Hawai'i State Attorney General, and his theme was "I will give you rest: Legal issues surrounding respite and housing." Each religious organization, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, and Jewish, submitted its perspectives about homelessness

Rev. Satoshi Tomioka remarked, "The purpose of this summit was to share our information and knowledge so that each of us can effectively contribute to solutions to end homelessness and cooperate with other religious organizations, volunteer groups, and government entities. As I work as a minister of Hongwanji and encounter people who are suffering from drugs, alcohol, low income, traumatic experiences, difficult family and human relationships, and loss of loved ones, I face the reality of suffering in Hawai'i. As I see people suffer, my attention to suffering has broadened to not only people I know in Hongwanji but also in the larger community. Homelessness is an ever-growing issue in Hawai'i. Some questions that came to my mind, as a minister, as a Buddhist, as a person who listens to the teachings of Amida Buddha, were 1) Do I want to end homelessness? What can I do? My answer to question 1 was YES. Then, what can I do to contribute to solutions to end homelessness? This summit on homelessness was a great opportunity to learn the facts and information about how we can work together beyond the differences of faith. What we can do is learn about available shelters, services, and organizations for homeless in our community, and we can donate needed items. Amida Buddha's compassion is expressed as "Your suffering is my suffering. Your happiness is my happiness." Once we are touched by such compassion, we naturally let our own compassion, love, kindness and smile erupt to those who suffer and those who need kindness. Our happiness never decreases by being shared."

(\*\*Buddhist Perspective on Homelessness submitted by HHMH Social Concerns Committee is attached.)

# APPRECIATION TO REV. SHIMABUKURO

Rev. Yoshiko Shimabukuro's Appreciation Service was held on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 9:00am at West Kauai Hongwanji Mission (Resident Minister Rev. Tomo Hojo and President Mr. Alton Miyamoto). It was a great honor to have Rev. Shimabukuro's Appreciation Service. We presented her with an appreciation resolution from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and a letter from the Bishop. Over one hundred Kauai Hongwanji members and community people participated in the service and expressed their appreciation for Rev. Shimabukuro, who keeps guiding us to the Nembutsu path.





# **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS BY TIMBER HAWKEYE**

Attached is the informational flyer for the upcoming Timber Hawkeye speaking engagements in April. Mahalo to the Buddhist Study Center, Mililani Hongwanji and Kailua Hongwanji for hosting these public events. *(Event Flyer is attached.)* 

For questions about each event:

- 4/22 BSC event, contact BSC directly or Timber Hawkeye's Facebook Page.
- 4/24 Mililani Hongwanji service, contact Gay Tanaka at gaytanaka@gmail.com.
- 4/24 Session at Kailua Hongwanji, contact Joy Nishida at kailuahongwanji@gmail.com.

#### **PBA GRADUATION**

The Pacific Buddhist Academy will be holding its 10th Baccalaureate Ceremony on May 5, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Hondo. The Ceremony will be officiated by Bishop Eric Matsumoto assisted by the ministers who will represent each district. 17 students will be graduating from PBA this year. The Commencement Exercise will be held on May 6, 2016 at 5:00 pm at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

# **CALENDAR COMMITTEE**

The HHMH Calendar Committee would like to invite the Hongwanji members and friends to provide creative works of art for the 2017 Hongwanji Calendar. The official announcement from the Calendar Committee is forthcoming. Please encourage each other and your various temple organizations to start thinking about ideas to submit your works of art such as photos, drawings, and poems. The Hongwanji theme and Slogan for the year 2017 is "Embrace Change: Action (Open Communications)".