



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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AUGUST 2016

CONDOLENCES

Reverend Hiroo Kahara, a former *Kaikyoshi* minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on August 9, 2016. The funeral service was held on August 12, 2016 at Genshōji Temple in Hyogo Prefecture. Rev. Hiroo Kahara had served Puunene Hongwanji Mission from September 1966 till February 1969, and Honomu, Honohina, and Papaaloa Hongwanji Missions from March 1969 till January 1972.

Ms. Harue Furumoto, a member of Honokaa Hongwanji Mission, passed away on July 5, 2016. The Posthumous Title (Ingo) of “Kon-Go-In” (金剛院) has been conferred from Bishop Eric Matsumoto upon Ms. Harue Furumoto for her contribution to Honokaa Hongwanji Mission and HHMH.

Mrs. Haruko Hoashi passed away on August 6, 2016. In recognition of Mrs. Haruko Hoashi’s long years of dedication and commitment to nurturing students learning Japanese as a Japanese Language Teacher and the decades of support she provided her husband Reverend Shoin Hoashi as they both nurtured people of Jodo Shinshu Faith, the Posthumous Title (Ingo) of “Chō-Yō-In” (長養院) or “one who significantly dedicated herself to nurturing others” has been conferred upon her.

TOKUDO

Charlene Kihara (Hawaii Betsuin), Kerry Kiyohara (Moiliili Hongwanji), and Barbara Brennan (Hawaii Betsuin) recently returned from Japan as Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha priests.

Charlene, Kerry, Barbara, and six candidates from Buddhist Churches of America made up a group traveling to Kyoto in July to pursue the final steps for Tokudo Ordination. The candidates trained intensively for ten days with a schedule on most days going from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., including services, classes and testing, cleaning, meals, changing robes, chanting, and practicing rituals.



Two other groups of candidates from Japan received training at the same time, making a total of 33 candidates.

On the ninth day, candidates were presented with their ordination certificates by Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani, the spiritual head of the Jodo Shinshu denomination. Candidates also received a Ki-Gesa (paneled priestly vestment) and a Homyo (Buddhist name). Several more services the following day and presentation of certificates in English completed the program.

Congratulations to our newly ordained Jodo Shinshu priests!

(Article written by Mr. David Atcheson)

Short reflection on Tokudo

"I am profoundly aware that Tokudo was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, that the things I've learned will stay with me forever, that the robes and vestments carry tremendous responsibility. Tokudo was a chance to be reborn, to start over, to set a new course in this life. I am not deserving of this great opportunity and yet it comes to me. Namo Amida Butsu!" (Kerry Kiyohara)

"The Tokudo experience was one of the pinnacle moments in my life. It was so spiritual and transforming. It was a difficult time for me. This was my first time in Japan, I needed to quickly learn the customs, the dressing and undressing (putting on robes), saho (manners), liturgy and chanting. Although it was so short I learned so much about myself. I learned that even a bonbu like myself could learn and hopefully become a better person." (Charlene Kihara)

"My Tokudo experience at Nishiyama Betsuin was deeply moving, beyond expectation. It was a unique learning environment where all the Senseis and Dharma teachers shared not only their knowledge of Jodo Shinshu teachings and rituals with us but also their personal heartfelt stories. I am grateful for their dedication and commitment to the Teachings which will be cause for reflection throughout the rest of my life as a Jodo Shinshu minister." (Barbara Brennan)

CHORALFEST MUSIC SERVICE AT HAWAII BETSUIN

The special Music Service for Choralfest 2016 will be held at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin on Sunday, September 25, 2016, at 10:00 AM. One hundred singers from near and far will raise their voices in song in praise of the Buddha-Dharma. Gathas featured will be ***Where, Oh, Where?*** (*Hotokesama wa*), ***Entrusting Heart*** (*Marui kokoro*), ***Touched by Kindness*** (*Shiawase ni deattara*), ***How Happy I Am!*** (*Go-on ureshiya*), and ***The Buddha's Great Light***. The congregation will be asked to join in for ***Gratefulness II*** (*Ondokusan II*).

The festival choir will be conducted by Hongwanji Living Treasure Nola Nahulu and accompanied by Francis Okano. Come and witness this unique Hongwanji musical offering.

HQ BOOKSTORE UPDATE

Do you have your own Butsudan (Buddhist Altar) at home? It is the tradition of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to have a Butsudan at home as a mirror for each individual to see the true nature of self and to fully awaken to personal spirituality.

HQ Bookstore have "Butsudan (small size)", "Scroll of Amida Buddha" and "Scroll of Rokuji Myogo (Chinese Character of *Na-Mo-A-Mi-Da-Butsu*)" for sale. We are also able to order an official "Butsudan" and "Scroll of Amida Buddha" from Honzan, Kyoto upon request. The name and stamp of the 25th Gomonshu are printed behind this official scroll.

If you would like to have a portable altar, we recommend "Amida in Stand" (\$15.00). The scroll of Amida Buddha is inside of the plastic stand, so you may place it even a small space.

Please stop by at HQ Bookstore to see the Butsudan, Scroll, and many other items. You can also inquire by telephone (808)522-9202 or by email at hqbooks@honpahi.org.

(Yoshiko Umitani)

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS

Kauai ministers, Rev. Tomo Hojo, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, and Rev. Mieko Majima presented a Social Concerns donation to Mana'olana Shelter and they had an opportunity to learn about the homelessness situation on Kauai.



PBA BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Exciting News!

Construction activity on the future Pacific Buddhist Academy building site resumed on Monday, August 15! Construction crews will begin by clearing remaining trees and shrubs followed by the grading phase. PBA families and temple campus guests can expect to receive regular updates about the construction activities through this publication. Special updates to notify families about expected traffic delays will be relayed on an as-needed basis. Families or guests with questions or concerns can contact the PBA Main Office at 532-2649.

It's time to get excited about the future phase of PBA growth!

2016 PEACE DAY INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

Date: Friday, September 16, 2016
Place: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu)
Theme: Inspiring Peace
Special Guest: Ukulele Virtuoso Gordon Mark

Please join us for the 6th Annual Peace Day Interfaith Celebration sponsored by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Co-sponsors include: Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (HHHB), Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA), The Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii (TIAH), Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace (HCRP), Society for the Promotion of Buddhism Hawaii (BDK Hawaii), Hawaii Buddhist Council (HBC), and Hawaii Association of International Buddhists (HAIB).

In 2007, Hawaii became the first state to recognize Peace Day. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The service will feature speakers and musical performances from a variety of religious and spiritual traditions. Ukulele virtuoso Gordon Mark will perform a special mini-concert at this event. With the theme of "Inspiring Peace," the event will be a moving and memorable celebration of peace. For more information, please contact Liane.Viloria@pbahi.org.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DEACONS' VISIT

A Group of Roman Catholic Deacons and their spouses visited Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii on August 13, 2016 as a part of their annual seminar. They visited Hongwanji to learn how we view and practice "Compassion (Mercy)" in our tradition. During this one hour visit, Bishop Eric Matsumoto gave a presentation on the brief history of Hongwanji, perspective and expression of Compassion assisted by Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Sensei Kerry Kiyohara, Sensei Barbara Brennan, and Sensei Charlene Kihara.



2017 HHMH ACCESSION CEREMONY TOUR

Date: March 29, 2017 – April 7, 2017 (10 days tour)

If you are interested in joining in this special Japan tour, please contact HQ Office at 522-9200 or go to <http://hqs963.wix.com/hhmhdhhtour>. Registration deadline is August 31, 2016.