



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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OCTOBER 2018

PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET

Reserve Your Seats for Lighting Our Way!

Pacific Buddhist Academy is excited to announce that its **Annual Lighting Our Way Banquet** will be held on **Friday, November 16**, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Waialae Country Club.

This year's distinguished honorees include **Maya Soetoro-Ng**, Director of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, **Carole Hayashino**, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and **Ian Kitajima**, Director of Corporate Development at Oceanit. We will also honor the **Japanese American Citizens League Honolulu Chapter** represented by Alison Kunishige, President of the Board of Directors.

The Banquet is a showcase for PBA students to demonstrate Buddhist values such as gratitude, compassion, and selfless service to others. Proceeds from the event help more families send their children to PBA.

To reserve a table or purchase individual tickets, please call Rüdiger (Rudy) Rückmann in the PBA Advancement Office at 808-532-2649, write him rüdiger.ruckmann@pbahi.org, or click on this link: <https://www.pacificbuddhistacademy.org/13th-annual-lighting-our-way-banquet-sponsorships-and-tickets>

To donate to the **Silent Auction**, please call Office Coordinator Debbie Martin at the same number or write her debbie.martin@pbahi.org. We would be especially grateful for donated hotel stays, spa days, restaurant gift cards, or food gift baskets.

Thank you for supporting PBA's students and the Lighting Our Way honorees by attending or donating to this wonderful annual event.

CHORALFEST 2018

CHORALFEST 2018 A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The seventh Choralfest of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was held at Hawaii Betsuin on the weekend of September 29-30. This culmination of two years or more of preparation by the Kyodan Music Committee and its Gatha Translation Subcommittee had been anticipated with a great deal of eagerness and a little bit of trepidation by choir members and non-members alike, who were linked by their love of choral singing and Buddhist music.

Ms. Nola Nahulu, acclaimed choral director and Honpa Hongwanji Living Treasure, reined in the 106 voices of participants from Hawaii, as well as from Washington State, with a firm hand and a lovely sense of humor that soon had the singers relaxed, but striving to give Ms. Nahulu everything that she asked for, and, even to the untrained ears of the participants, sounding a lot better than when the afternoon began.



The hours-long rehearsal sessions on Saturday were fueled not only by inspiring music and laughter, but also by the generous contributions of food and snacks provided by choir members and dharma friends. When dinnertime arrived, everyone was much more confident of their singing, and ready for some relaxation. A bountiful dinner was followed by entertainment by pianist Ms. Jennifer Taira accompanying Ms. Laurie Ruben as she sang a number of beautiful operatic and popular pieces, to the delight of all...

When alarm clocks went off in hotel rooms and homes across Oahu the following morning, the singers began to gear up for a Sunday service they would probably long remember. Once again fueled by a generous breakfast at the Betsuin, the singers took their seats in the temple for final warm-ups and bracing words from Ms. Nahulu. Then, the temple bell began to ring...

After opening remarks and a very special rendition of the Shoshin-Ge sutra by the ministers, which sounded very appropriate for a music service, it was time for the choir to take their places. In the expectant hush of the hall, Ms. Nahulu raised her hand and the temple was filled with the elegant sounds of the piano played by Mr. Francis Okano, the Choralfest Choir's amazing accompanist for the weekend. As the first words left the singers' mouths, their hearts began brimming with the joy of singing as one, presenting the dharma so melodiously and harmoniously. By the time the last of the five songs presented that day began, hearts and tears were overflowing.

All too soon, Choralfest 2018 was over, but the music still echoes in the hearts and minds of the participants, and, we hope, in those of the congregation. The event ended with a fabulous lunch, of course, and then everyone was on their way home—taking with them lessons and songs well learned over the two days. Everyone had worked very hard, but Choralfest 2018 would not have been quite the success it was without the help of the BWA members and other choir supporters, and Betsuin and Kyodan office staff and ministers who all gave so much of their time and energy in preparing for this event, setting up the temple and social hall, and preparing and serving the nutritious offerings.

If you were unable to attend this year's Choralfest, videos of the musical presentations will soon be available on the Honpa Hongwanji website.

2018 MINISTER'S LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT, OCTOBER 12 TO 14



This year there were twelve participants, three mentoring ministers and one support staff.

Front row from left to right: Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Ritual and Traditions Mentor & Lecturer; Rev. Shingo Furusawa, Assistant Mentor; Lynn Nakata, Hawaii Betsuin; Wayne Nishida, Wailuku Hongwanji, Jaryd Oshiro, Jikoen Hongwanji; Brandon Hee (closest to the incense burner), Mililani Hongwanji; Dorothy Colby, Moiliili Hongwanji; Jennifer “Jenn” Kane, Kailua Hongwanji; Gail Okata, BSC; Barbara (Barbie) Nomura, Moiliili Hongwanji; Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, Buddhism and Jōdo Shinshū Mentor and Lecturer.

Back row from left to right: David (Minh Tri) Fiedler, Wahiawa Honwanji; Daniel (Danny) Topp, Wailuku Hongwanji; Carson (Andy) Anderson, Moiliili Hongwanji; Keith Lee, BSC.

Not pictured is Kerrie Wong, Assistant to the Director of BSC, Dexter Mar, Ministerial Training Committee Member, Lectured on the Minister's Lay Assistant Experience, and Bishop Eric Matsumoto, who delivered the welcome address.

The participants were able to learn more about the traditions and rituals of the Nishi Hongwanji and review and enhance their technical understanding of Buddhism and Jōdo Shinshū. A new activity was added where all participants were asked to write a 10 minutes dharma talk. Some delivered it during a service, others during various times during the retreat. It is the first retreat one must complete to become a Minister's Assistant, but completion does not imply any position or title.

Everyone is reminded that all participants were approved by a Hawaii Kyodan ministers and in the case of a temple member member by their temple minister. Also no one who completes this retreat is entitled to carry out the responsibilities of a Hawaii Kyodan minister or is obligated to assume such responsibilities. Certified Minister's Lay Assistants are recommended to the Bishop by a Hawaii Kyodan minister, usually the head minister of the temple. The Bishop can then choose to certify.

PACIFIC HEALTH MINISTRY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and representatives of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii attended the Pacific Health Ministry's 30th Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, October 14 at the Ala Moana Hotel. HHMH Attendees took a photo with Mernie Miyasato-Crawford, President of PHM Board of Directors. From the PHM website:



“Pacific Health Ministry (PHM) was established in 1986 as a not-for-profit organization to develop hospital ministry, and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) programs in Hawaii. The idea for the agency evolved in the hearts and minds of healthcare and religious leaders. In the early 1980s, there was a growing interest in the value of spiritual care in healthcare institutions to address complex bio-ethical questions and end-of-life issues.”

“The agency began services on Oahu in 1988 at three of the major Hawaii health care institutions: Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, The Queen's Medical Center and Kuakini Medical Center. Since that time programs have been established at Hawaii State Hospital, Kahi Mohala, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Pali Momi Medical Center, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Pohai Nani Good Samaritan, Straub Clinic & Hospital.”

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii has been involved in and supporting this program since its early years. Several ministers took its Clinical Pastoral Education program.



In conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of Pacific Health Ministry, a group of approximately 120 members from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education from the Mainland visited Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, the next day. They were greeted by Bishop Eric Matsumoto and, then, listened to a presentation by Dexter Mar who, also, is an Advisory Board Member of PHM. For many, it was the first time they stepped inside a Buddhist Temple. PHM Executive Director Rev. Anke Flohr was truly grateful for the opportunity afforded to the Association members and students who are currently studying at PHM to visit a Hongwanji Buddhist temple.

AFFIRMATION RITES

The Affirmation Rites was held by the Oahu Hongwanji Council in conjunction with the Wahiwawa Hongwanji Mission 110th Anniversary on Sunday, October 21. In the solemn atmosphere, 10 individuals participated in the ceremony and received a Buddhist Name from Bishop Eric Matsumoto.



The Affirmation Rites is a ceremony in which the one takes refuge in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and pledges his/her faith before Amida Buddha. The Buddhist Name is the name given to those who follow the Three Treasures of Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, and pledge to live their lives as a Buddhist. The following is a comment from one of the recipients:

“Today was my affirmation. What an amazing and deeply moving experience for me. It was a homecoming as well as a commitment towards my future with the sangha. An investment in me and my sangha. Thank you to everyone who has helped me, supported me, and committed to walk this path with me. NAMO AMIDA BUTSU. It is so good to be home spiritually, emotionally, and physically.”

2019 HAWAII KYODAN CALENDAR

January 1 (Tue)	New Year's Day (HQ closed for holiday)
January 16 (Wed)	Shinran Shonin's Memorial Day (Hoonko)
January 21 (Mon)	M. L. King Jr. Day (HQ closed for holiday)
February 7 (Thu)	Board of Directors Meeting & State Ministers Association Meeting
February 8-9 (Fri-Sat)	107th HHMH Legislative Assembly
February 9 (Sat)	107th HHMH Legislative Assembly Aloha Luncheon & Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition
February 10 (Sun)	BWA (Fujinkai) Dana Day
February 15 (Fri)	Nirvana Day
February 16-18 (Sat-Mon)	YESS Camp 36 (Camp Kokokahi)
February 18 (Mon)	Presidents' Day (HQ closed for holiday)
March 2 (Sat)	Hongwanji Day (130th Anniversary of HHMH, observed March 3)
March 7-8 (Thu-Fri)	Ryukoku University-BSC Spring Seminar (Prof. Eisho Nasu)
March 17-23 (Sun-Sat)	Young Adult Culture and Dharma Tour
March 18-24	Spring Higan
April 8 (Mon)	Buddha Day (HQ closed for holiday)
April 19-20 (Fri-Sat)	Ministers' Spouses Association Seminar (Oahu)
April 25 (Thu)	BWA (Fujinkai) Eshinni Day/Peace Day
May 9 (Thu)	PBA Baccalaureate Ceremony
May 10 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
May 10 (Fri)	PBA Commencement Exercise
May 11 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
May 12 (Sun)	Mother's Day
May 21 (Tue)	Shinran Shonin's Birthday (Gotan-E)
May 27 (Mon)	Memorial Day (HQ closed for holiday)
June 4-6 (Tue-Thu)	61st State Ministers Association Seminar (Maui)
June 16 (Sun)	Father's Day
June 26-27 (Wed-Thu)	World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting (Japan)
June 28-30 (Fri-Sun)	62nd State Jr. YBA Convention (Oahu)
July 4 (Thu)	Independence Day (HQ closed for holiday)
Aug 12-16 (Mon-Fri)	BSC Summer Session (Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara)
August 16 (Fri)	Statehood Day (HQ closed for holiday)
August 17-22 (Sat-Thu)	BSC Neighbor Island Summer Session (Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara)
Aug 30- Sep 1 (Fri-Sun)	16th World Buddhist Women's Convention (San Francisco, CA)
September 2 (Mon)	Labor Day (HQ closed for holiday)
September 6 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
September 7 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
September 13-15 (Fri-Sun)	56th Honpa Hongwanji Lay Association Convention (Hawaii)
September 20-26	Autumn Higan
September 21 (Sat)	Peace Day Hawaii/United Nations International Day of Peace
October 11-13 (Fri-Sun)	Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat (BSC)
November 6 (Wed)	Appreciation Luncheon for Retired Ministers and Spouses
November 11 (Mon)	Veterans Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 14-15 (Thu-Fri)	State Ministers Continuing Education Seminar (Rev. Kenji Akahoshi)
November 28 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Day (HQ closed for holiday)
November 29 (Fri)	Family Day (HQ closed for holiday)
December 6 (Fri)	Sanmu Meeting & Sanmu-Kanji Meeting
December 7 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting
December 8 (Sun)	Bodhi Day
December 25 (Wed)	Christmas Day (HQ closed for holiday)
December 31 (Tue)	New Year's Eve