

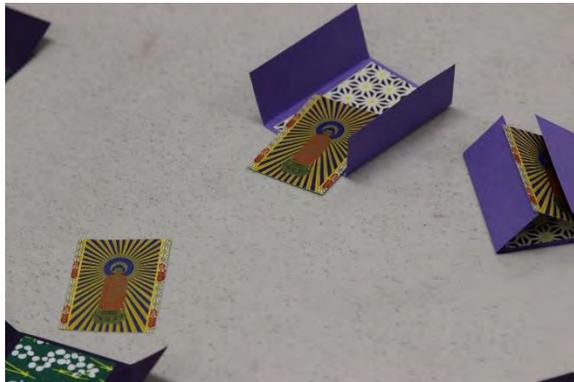
YESS Camp 33 “Through the Mirror”
By Carianne Matsuo and Kristyn Katayama
Photos by Ryne Masuda and Sydney Ro

This year, YESS Camp 33 was held on March 19-21, 2016 on Oahu. Our co-chairs for camp were Carianne Matsuo and Kristyn Katayama. The theme was “Through the Mirror”. We had about 29 campers and 2 ministers attend. Our original plan was to have camp at Camp Timberline but due to unforeseen circumstances (Nanakuli brushfire) we had to relocate.



On Friday March 18 at about 10:45am, we get a message saying that Camp Timberline is closed due to the fire. What are we supposed to do! Camp was happening the next day at 9am. Thankfully, the manager at Timberline was willing to help us relocate to another campsite. We were frantically looking online at the different campsites she was offering us, to see what kind of facilities they had, what kind of accommodations they offer, and how far of a drive it would be to and from BSC and the airport. But after

looking at the pros and cons of the different campsites, we thought having camp at the Buddhist Study Center was the best option. It was now 12:30pm and we had our location set. Now we had to send out a bunch of emails to our campers, ministers, counselors, and staff to inform them that camp was relocated. We also had additional people we had to notify like our photographer, DJ and bus company to let them know the change in plans and hope that everything would work out.



It was the morning of the camp, we had a few things to set up, our counselors are getting ready for camp, our staff was preparing lunch and our first few campers come in the door. Camp has now started! There were nervous faces, happy faces, and tired faces coming in through the door. But what better way to introduce everyone and get to know their names, a mixer! Mixers helped the campers get to know one another. We also had our counselor skit, Dharma session, camper skit, and s'mores.

It was the second day of camp. We had two Dharma sessions, our group photo, special interest project, field games, and the dance. The campers enjoyed all of it and you could see their competitive side come out during the field games. We were so amazed when the dance started, there was no camper sitting down on a chair, everyone was dancing!!! We usually have to drag a few campers onto the dance floor or encourage them to go dance that was not the problem this year. The



campers danced pretty much the whole time and it was great seeing them all laughing and having a good time.



Can you believe it was the last day of camp already?!?! Time just flies when you're all having fun. The day was spent doing a quick clean, our last Dharma session, brunch, and goodbyes. You could just see it in every camper that they all had a good time! When they arrived at camp, some were a little nervous about what YESS Camp was all about, but by the end of camp, there were only smiles and no worries.

Throughout camp, we could see all the campers bonding and making new friends and reconnecting with the friends they have met before at previous camps. We had a range of 13 year olds to 18 year olds. Majority of the campers were first timers. The campers really enjoyed our guest speaker, Pieper Toyama, and his Dharma sessions. They were all engaged in the sessions and he had them do a lot of discussing with their groups.



A huge thank you to all our campers and ministers for coming to camp because without you, camp would not be possible. Thank you to our counselors and staff for giving up your time to attend our meetings and your help in planning camp! Thank you to Rev. Kevin for letting us use the BSC for camp.

YESS camp 33 is done and now we are onto YESS camp 34! We hope to see you all next year! We encourage all our campers to talk about your experience at camp with your temple and encourage your friends to come too!

YESS Camp 33 Quick Stats:

Dates: March 19-21, 2016

Place: Buddhist Study Center

Speaker: Hawaii Kyodan President Pieper Toyama

Campers: 29 (10 middle school, 19 high school)

Ministers: 2

Counselors: 9

Staff: 9

Camp Song: Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

Dance theme: Emerald City