

JIKO-"Wisdom-Light"

May 2017

Volume 61, Issue 5



Monthly Newsletter of the Aiea Hongwanji Mission Embrace Change - Action (Open Communications)

EVENTS OF MAY 2017

May 4	Thu	9:00am	Aiea Buddhist Women's Association meeting
May 5	Fri		Sanmu and Sanmu-Kanji Meetings
May 5	Fri	5:00pm	PBA Commencement Exercise at JCCH
May 6	Sat	9:00am	Toshihide Numata Memorial Service at Hawaii Betsuin
May 6	Sat	10:00am	Honpa Hongwanji Hawai'i Board of Directors' Meeting
May 7	Sun	9:00am	Service and Dharma School
May 7	Sun	noon	O'ahu Lay Association meeting at Pearl City
May 7	Sun	noon to 3pm	Bon Dance Practice at Aiea Hongwanji (Hall)
May 8	Mon	7:30pm	Senior Young Buddhist Association meeting in office
May 9	Tue		Preschool CPK Fundraiser (coupon on page 7)
May 14	Sun	9:00am	Mother's Day Service
May 14	Sun	10:00am	Membership Committee Meeting
May 16	Tue	7:00pm	Aiea Hongwanji Mission Board of Directors' Meeting
May 19	Fri	5:30pm	Senior YBA dinner at Morikawa's
May 21	Sun	9:00am	Service and Dharma School—Guest speaker (Rev. Yagi on Kauai)
May 21	Sun	noon to 1:45pm	Bon Dance Practice at Aiea Hongwanji (Hall)
May 21	Sun	2 to 5pm	Buddha Bowling Bash (formerly Spring Fling) at Leeward Bowl
May 26		9 to noon	Aiea Hongwanji Mission Pre-School Graduation
May 28	Sun	9:00am	Gotan-E Service (Shinran Shonin's Birthday)
May 28	Sun	1:00pm	OUBWA meeting in Lotus
May 28	Sun	noon to 3pm	Bon Dance practice at Aiea Hongwanji (Hall)
May 29	Mon		Memorial Day HOLIDAY

HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE 2017

Jun 1	Sat		First Day of Preschool Summer Session
Jun 1	Thu	9:00am	Aiea BWA meeting
Jun 4	Sun	9:00am	Family Service and Dharma School
June 4	Sun	11:30am	United of O'ahu Jr YBA Meeting at Wahiawa
Jun 11	Sun	8:00am	Quarterly Temple Beautification Day/no service
Jun 13-15			59th State Ministers Association Seminar (Big Island)
Jun 17	Sat	7:00pm	Ewa Bon Dance
Jun 18	Sun	9:00 am	Father's Day Service
Jun 19	Mon	7:00pm	O'ahu District Council meeting at Mililani
Jun 20	Tue	7:00pm	Aiea Hongwanji Mission Board of Directors' Meeting
Jun 23-24	Fri-Sat	7:00pm	Wahiawa Bon Dance
Jun 25	Sun	9:00am	Family Service and Dharma School
Jun 25	Sun	noon	Lay Convention Planning Committee mtg at Mililani
Jun 30- Jul 2	Fri-Sun		60th State Jr. YBA Convention (Honolulu)

Aloha Members and Friends

- The Aiea Hongwanji Mission Hawaiian Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017.
- BON DANCE PRACTICE on Sundays, May 7, 21 and 28. Come to the hall to learn the dances we will have this season at Aiea Hongwanji. Practices start at noon, and end at 3pm, except for May 21 (ends 1:45pm).
- The Eisa Okinawan Dance group continues to hold bon dance practice open to the public on Friday nights (until the beginning of June) in the Aiea Hongwanji hall from 6 to 8:30pm. Some Fridays may be pre-empted by other hall activities. Check our Aiea Hongwanji calendar online at <http://aieahongwanji.org/calendar.html>

NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MINISTER?

Please call Rev. Shawn Yagi at 488-5685 (residence), or 487-2626 (office). If he is not available, leave a message on the answering machine.

For religious emergencies (Makuragyo or bedside services), please call Rev. Yagi on his cell phone, 364-2825.

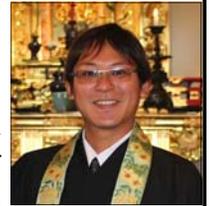
Temple President, Warren Tamamoto, is also available for assistance. His pager number is 576-4136.

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Minister's Message



Life of Shinran Shonin

Shinran Shonin (1173-1262) was born at the close of the Heian period, when political power was passing from the imperial court into the hands of warrior clans. It was during this era when the old order was crumbling, however, that Japanese Buddhism, which had been declining into formalism for several centuries, underwent intense renewal, giving birth to new paths to enlightenment and spreading to every level of society. Shinran was born on the first day of the fourth lunar month (May 21st of the Western calendar), into the aristocratic Hino family, a branch of the Fujiwara clan, and his father, Arinori, at one time served at court. At the age of nine, however, Shinran entered the Tendai temple on Mt. Hiei, where he spent twenty years in monastic life. From the familiarity with Buddhist writings apparent in his later works, it is clear that he exerted great effort in his studies during this period. He probably also performed such practices as continuous recitation of the nembutsu for prolonged periods.

Conversion

After twenty years, however, he despaired of ever attaining awakening through such discipline and study; he was also discouraged by the deep corruption that pervaded the mountain monastery. Years earlier, Honen Shonin (1133-1212) had descended Mt. Hiei and begun teaching a radically new understanding of religious practice, declaring that all self-generated efforts toward enlightenment were tainted by attachments and therefore meaningless. Instead of such practice, one should simply say the nembutsu, not as a contemplative exercise or means of gaining merit, but by way of wholly entrusting oneself to Amida's Vow to bring all beings to enlightenment.

When he was twenty-nine, Shinran undertook a long retreat at Rokkakudo temple in Kyoto to determine his future course. At dawn on the ninety-fifth day, Prince Shotoku appeared to him in a dream. Shinran took this as a sign that he should seek out Honen, and went to hear his teaching daily for a hundred days. He then abandoned his former Tendai practices and joined Honen's movement.

Exile

At this time, however, the established temples were growing jealous of Honen, and in 1207 they succeeded in gaining a government ban on his nembutsu teaching. Several followers were executed, and Honen and others, including Shinran, were banished from the capital.

Shinran was stripped of his priesthood, given a layman's name, and exiled to Echigo (Niigata) on the Japan Sea coast. About this time, he married Eshinni and began raising a family. He declared himself "neither monk nor layman." Though incapable of fulfilling monastic discipline or good works, precisely because of this, he was grasped by Amida's compassionate activity. He therefore chose for himself the name Gutoku, "foolish/shaven," indicating the futility of attachment to one's own intellect and goodness.

He was pardoned after five years, but decided not to return to Kyoto. Instead, in 1214, at the age of forty-two, he made his way into the Kanto region, where he spread the Nembutsu teaching for twenty years, building a large movement among the peasants and lower samurai.

(Continue in June Newsletter)

In Gassho,
Rev. Shawn K. Yagi

AIEA HONGWANJI HALL WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Dharma Service (temple)	9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday & Thursday	Hosha Work Days	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Monday to Wednesday, & Friday	Preschool Use	8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Monday & Thursday	Kumon Class	2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday & Wednesday	Zumba Class #1	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Monday & Wednesday	Zumba Class #2	7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi everyone,

I hope you are in good spirits. Claire and I had a wonderful opportunity to travel to Japan in March/April to attend the Dento Hokoku Hoyo (Accession Ceremony) of His Eminence Kojun Ohtani, the 25th Spiritual Leader Gomonshu Sennyō Shonin in Kyoto, Japan. Please read Bishop Eric Matsumoto's reflections in his report on page 4. It was indeed an honor to have an audience with His Eminence in the morning, followed by a beautiful bento lunch provided by the Honzan and then attend the Accession Ceremony in the afternoon. The weather was cold and rainy, but it did not dampen our good spirits and excitement at being at the Honzan to witness this important event. The Hawaii group prepared a special greeting for Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani after the morning ceremony. We waited downstairs for a few minutes and as His Eminence exited the elevator, greeted him with shouts of "Aloha". He returned our greetings with a warm smile and wave of his hands.

The day after the Accession Ceremony we continued on our tour. The title of our tour "Tracing the Steps of Shinran Shonin" was an excellent description. The tour combined the Accession Ceremony for Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani in Kyoto with visits to temples and historic sites significant to the life of Shinran Shonin, founder of our Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism. Some of you might think, "boring". But, you would be very wrong. We were never bored. Our JTB guides Kaori and Mika were lively, cheerful and always willing to help. Bishop Eric Matsumoto provided important insights at every stop. Rev. Yuika Hasabe was a bundle of energy—always smiling and always on the move. Our fellow travelers (Ondobo ondogyo) included singles and couples from every district/island, 5 Pacific Buddhist Academy students and their fearless leader, Head of School Josh Hernandez-Morse. Former PBA Head of School Pieper Toyama and his wife, Lois were part of the entertainment at our banquet in Akakura. Lois, by the way is a "rapper". Our ages ranged from teens (PBA) through a few in the 80's. We were part of the younger group (in spirit, not age). We enjoyed each other's company.

We visited the Takayama Higashi Hongwanji Betsuin where we saw an exhibit honoring the life of Hisako Nakamura. Due to frostbite, Hisako lost her arms and legs at the age of 3. We cannot imagine the difficulties she must have experienced as a young girl without the use of arms or legs. Yet, in her later years, Hisako married and had daughters. When she was 42 years old, she encountered the Tannisho and started expressing her joy of Nembutsu. As she got older, she started to realize that her misfortune gave her the determination to live strong. She discovered a way to live by the soul, not by the body. She is quoted as saying, "Handicapped people tend to complain (about) what they don't have. But I, without the perfect body was always thankful for what I had".

The food and drink in Japan was fantastic. Pretty much everything I was hoping for. Japanese breakfast buffet is perfect for me. Just one negative thing I can think of. I often was so full from the previous meal that I did not have room in my stomach for the various small snacks—musubi, etc. that we passed by in our various travels. Had to let them go. Now I miss them. Oh well, next time.

Gassho,
Warren Tamamoto

AIEA HONGWANJI HALL WEEKLY ACTIVITIES (continued)

Tuesday & Thursday	Judo	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	Sanshin Class (classroom or Lotus)	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
1st Thursday	BWA Meeting (kitchen)	9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Thursdays	BWA Craft Class	8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fridays (until end of May)	Eisa Bon Dance Practice	6:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

* schedule is subject to change due to holidays, and other reasons.

Mettabhavana Meditation

Amida Buddha
surrounds all men
and all forms of life
with Infinite Love
and Compassion.
Particularly does
he send forth
loving thoughts to
those in suffering
and sorrow, those
in doubt and
ignorance, to
those who are
striving to attain
Truth; and to those
whose feet are
standing close to
the great change
men call death,
Amida Buddha
sends forth oceans
of Wisdom and
Compassion.

Namo Amida Butsu.

**Aiea Hongwanji
Preschool and
Kindergarten:
PH: 488-0404**

**Lotus Adult Day
Care Center:
PH: 486-5050**

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Honpa-Hongwanji-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Honpa-Hongwanji-Mission-of-Hawaii/528681867268518)

[Mission-of-Hawaii/528681867268518](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Honpa-Hongwanji-Mission-of-Hawaii/528681867268518)

REFLECTIONS ON THE ACCESSION CEREMONY AND PILGRIMAGE TOUR. Bishop Eric Matsumoto's Report.

It was Spring, but fluctuating temperatures made it an unusual year. On March 31, 2017, 2PM, the temperature was a very brisk 45 degrees and it was raining. The temple precinct was filled with a colorful sea of red, blue, lavender



and light green umbrellas with the wisteria crests on them. However, the chilly weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 47 participants from or related to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including PBA who were attending the Accession Ceremony of His Eminence Kojun Ohtani, the 25th Spiritual Leader Gomonshu Sennyō Shonin being held at the Honzan (Nishi Hongwanji) in the ancient capital of Kyoto.

After the honor of having an audience and a special photo opportunity with His Eminence in the morning with fellow Sangha members from Buddhist Churches of America and Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, our group hurried into the Buddha Hall to await the beginning of the Ceremony. The magnificently decorated altars dedicated to Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin with richly brocaded altar cloths together with the beautiful music and melodic chanting soon mesmerized the congregation from Overseas and Japan which filled the two Main Halls of the Main Temple. One of the highlights of the Accession Ceremony was the special appearance of 3 generations of the Ohtani Family from His Eminence Koshin Ohtani, Monshu Emeritus and Lady Noriko Ohtani, Urakata Emeritus, Gomonshu His Eminence Kojun Ohtani and Urakatasama Lady Ruzumi Ohtani and the children of the current Gomonshu and Urakatasama Takashi-sama and Akiko-sama towards the end of the Ceremony. They entered the spacious Halls together as a family and warmly greeted the congregation with smiles and such cordiality. It was especially touching to see Takashi-sama sitting next to his mother Lady Ruzumi Ohtani throughout the Service even chanting, to see Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani carry his children and Takashi-sama helping his little sister Akiko-

sama by holding her hand. A feeling of warmth, joy and togetherness pervaded and for a moment everyone forgot the cold.

The warmth of Amida Buddha's Compassion and the feeling of Sangha manifested by the Ohtani Family made the once-in-a-life time opportunity Accession Ceremony, a most memorable experience which will truly last a lifetime. The Accession Ceremony tells of a new era, a new beginning for Hongwanji.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe's Report. After the wonderful accession ceremony which was held at Nishi Hongwanji, our pilgrimage tour started. This tour's theme was following Shinran Shonin's step. We often learn about Shinran Shonin through scrolls, books or minister's messages but those places powerfully told us about Shinran Shonin as a real human. Through it, we were able to encounter new Shinran Shonin whom we had never known.

One of the most memorable place was Kotagahama Beach. Shinran Shonin was exile from Kyoto to Echigo Province (present Niigata Prefecture) and he reached to Kotagahama Beach by a boat. When we stepped off the bus, the bleak winds welcomed us. The area is known for strong gust and the climate of

N i i g a t a
P r e f e c t u r e
f o r c e s
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c o l d n e s s
e v e n
i n
p r e s e n t
d a y .



The ocean and sky were dark gray. It was a lonely beach. We couldn't help but imagine Shinran Shonin's feeling when he stepped on this lonely beach. His one and only master, Honen Shonin was exile to Tosa province (Present Kochi Prefecture in Shikoku Island) almost other side of Japan, and the teaching which he finally was able to encounter, was banned by the government of the era. The path ahead of him seem to dark and gray, like an ocean of Kotagahama.

Shinran Shonin's life was filled with difficulties and sufferings but yet, he never gave up the path of the Nembutsu. The Kotagahama Beach was lonely and covered by the dark clouds but they were not able to darken Shinran Shonin's heart. Shinran Shonin was illuminated by the light of Amida and always stood up again to take another step forward. Following his footsteps taught us that the life of Shinran Shonin, as a man and not only historical figure. It was great opportunity for us to reflect ourselves as Nembutsu Followers.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE BDK CHAIRMAN TOSHIHIDE NUMATA.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will be holding a memorial service for the late BDK Chairman Rev. Toshihide Numata on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 9:00am at the Hawaii Betsuin Annex Temple to express our appreciation and gratitude for the support and numerous contributions received from Numata Kaicho.

Rev. Toshihide Numata and BDK made many contributions to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and their most recent

contribution is the donation of the Buddhist altar for Pacific Buddhist Academy's new school building. Rev. Brian Nagata (a Director of BDK America) will be delivering a memorial Dharma message, and Dr. George Tanabe (President of BDK America), will share a message of remembrance. The service is open to anyone who wishes to honor the life of Rev. Toshihide Numata.

We were deeply saddened to receive the news from BDK Japan that Rev. Toshihide Numata, Chairman of Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai, passed away on February 16, 2017 in Tokyo. He was 84 years old. Rev. Numata was the son of Rev. Dr.

Yehan Numata, the founder of Mitutoyo Corporation and Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai. Like his father, Rev. Numata served as Mitutoyo President, and later as Chairman of BDK. Under his leadership, BDK increased the number of Numata Chair programs to universities throughout the world, and oversaw the development of innovative educational and charitable programs. His passing marks the end of an era for Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai, but his legacy will live on in the work that BDK will continue to do. (From BDK America's Website; <http://www.bdkamerica.org/>)



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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KIKYOSHIKI CONFIRMATION CEREMONY BY HIS EMINENCE GOMONSHU KOJUN OHTANI

Confirmation Ceremony, or “*Kikyoshiki*”, is a solemn ceremony performed before Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin to officially confirm your entry into the Path of the Nembutsu. Participants will affirm their reverence toward the Three Treasures of the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. “Buddha” is not simply in reference to Sakyamuni, but refers more importantly to Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Immeasurable Wisdom and Boundless Compassion. “Dharma” is the teaching of Amida’s Compassionate working to embrace all beings without any discrimination. “Sangha” refers to the community of people who have entrusted themselves to Amida Buddha and its Nembutsu teaching.

By participating in the Confirmation Ceremony, you will receive a Dharma Buddhist Name (*Homyo*). These names are in the form of “*Shaku*” and two Buddhist terms which follow. The word “*Shaku*” means “disciple of Sakyamuni” and signifies that the person has joined the followers of the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha, a community that transcends race or nationality.

His Eminence Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani, the Head Priest and the Spiritual Leader of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Organization, will be officiating the Confirmation Ceremony at the following three locations. Please note that the Confirmation Ceremony is open to anyone throughout the State. There is no minimum or maximum age limit however the individual must be able to participate in the ceremony at the temple. We sincerely hope that you will take this wonderful opportunity and participate in the Confirmation Ceremony. Please contact your resident minister if you have any questions about this ceremony.

**Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (398 Kilauea Ave., Hilo)
Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 5:30pm**

**Walluku Hongwanji Mission (1828 Vineyard Street, Walluku)
Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 5:30pm**

**Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu)
Sunday, September 10, 2017, 2:00pm**

京都の御本山より大谷光淳ご門主様がハワイへご巡回にお越しになられます。このご勝縁に上記の通り帰敬式を開催する運びとなりました。ぜひともご門主様から直接に帰敬式をお受けになり、念仏者としての喜びとこころざしを新たに作る機縁としていただきますよう、ここに謹んでご案内申し上げます。

<http://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2017/04/10/confirmation-ceremonies-0917/>. Aiea members, please contact Rev. Yagi for application instruction. Application deadline is June 30, 2017.



MC Taylor and Organist Claire



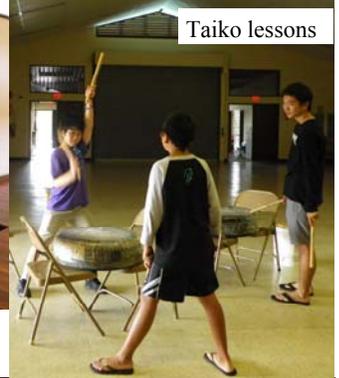
Hanamatsuri Service 2017



Hanamatsuri Speaker
Rev. Yuika Hasebe



Organist and Guest Speaker,
and MC Helen Takenouchi



Taiko lessons

Aiea BWA News

Happy Mothers Day !

Mahalo to all who attended our Eshinni-Kakushinni Service and craft sale. And an even BIGGER MAHALO to our talented BWA ladies who created all those handmade craft and food items ! We are really lucky and grateful to have so many creative and hardworking members who continue to contribute so much of their time and talents to our BWA ! Please come out and join us on our Thursday mornings for fun, food and fellowship !

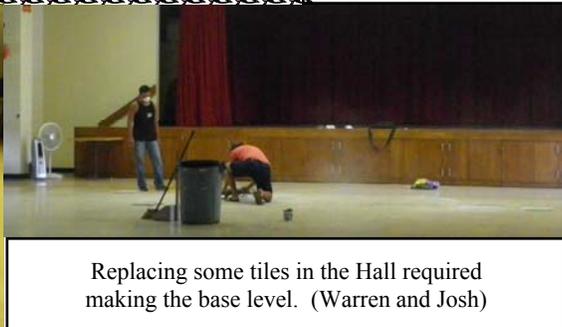
With Gassho,
Arlene Sunada



Aiea Hongwanji BWA ladies group picture, after successful Eshinni-Kakushinni Day Service and Sale



Setting up for the Craft Fair



Replacing some tiles in the Hall required making the base level. (Warren and Josh)



Aiea Hongwanji Preschool & Kindergarten

You are cordially invited to the **2017 Hawaii State Federation of Honpa Hongwanji Lay Associations Annual Convention.**

Join in and participate in a gathering of fellow Jodo Shinshu practitioners. In addition to the usual business agenda, we will conduct workshops that demonstrate the various endeavors taken on by our membership throughout the state.

Convention Theme: Buddhists in Action!

When: Sept 9-10, 2017; Concluding at 12:00pm Sunday with bento lunch

Where: Here at Aiea Hongwanji Mission

Further details forthcoming, or call your temple office (Aiea Hongwanji 487-2626)



Children sharing their artwork with the Seniors



Uncle Wayne's Friendship Concert



AIEA HONGWANJI MISSION PRESCHOOL
AGES: 2 1/2 to 5 YEARS
naeyc 488-0404



Accession Ceremony in Japan. See Bishop's article on page 4.

**Major Yearly
Memorial
Service
Schedule**

For The Year
2017

2016-1st year
2015-3rd year*
2011-7th year
2005-13th year
2001-17th year
1993-25th year
1985-33rd year
1968-50th year
* from the 2nd
anniversary,
please follow the
Japanese custom
of holding the
service the year
ahead.

Nokotsudo (Columbarium)

If you would like to visit the Nokotsudo, please call the residence at 488-5685 or the office at 487-2626 at least two days in advance so that arrangements can be made to open the Nokotsudo for you. The best days to visit the Nokotsudo are Thursday and Sunday mornings.

Family Memorial Service

In the Japanese Buddhist tradition, families hold memorial services (Nen-ki Hoyo) in memory of our loved ones, and to express our gratitude for Amida Buddha's Infinite Light.

The Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion embrace our loved ones in the land of peace and happiness. May we also remember Amida's embrace on our lives as we remember those who have departed.

If your family would like to arrange a memorial service for your loved one, please call the temple at 487-2626 (please leave a message if no one is available). You may schedule the service either before or after the memorial date. The ideal time is when as many family members as possible will attend. If you have any questions about memorial services, please call Rev. Yagi at 488-5685 (residence).

May 2017

Suekichi Higa	1st
Teruo Kimura	1st
Annie Shinae Morimoto	1st
Matsue Shimabukuro	1st
Harry Sumida	1st
Kiyomi Hoshino	3rd
Kiyoko "Kay" Arakaki	7th
Mitsue Itaki Arita	17th
Elaine Kimiyo Hamada	17th
Jay Jitsuo Miyagawa	17th
Sadako Morikawa	17th
Takeo Shimabukuro	17th
David Nakamura	25th
Victor Ghesquier	33rd
Joe Yoshimi Sekine	33rd
Masano Alice Yoshioka	50th

June 2017

Shigeru Aoyama	1st
Sumiko Nakahara	1st
Satoko Sadamaru	1st
Hisako Kinoshita	3rd
Masao Koyada	7th
Irene Masako Shimabukuro	7th
Peter Katsushi Kuromoto	13th
Umetaro "Albert" Okamura	13th
Paul Hiraku Sugimoto	13th
Kazumi Takahashi	13th
Misao Inouye	17th
Chieno Murakami	17th
Dan Nakamura	17th
Mervlyn Oshita Natsuko Tsugawa	17th
Ethel Fumiko Morishige	25th
Asa Yoneda	50th

We apologize if we have inadvertently made an error in printing the name of your loved one, or the date of memorial. Please inform the office of any errors at 487-2626 so that we may correct our records.

We appreciate your assistance in updating our memorial records and contact information when you call in for a Memorial Service. Thank you.



Thank you to everyone who was part of Pacific Buddhist Academy's Taiko Festival this past Sunday that showcased one of the premier high school taiko programs in the nation. We are grateful to our wonderful student and guest performers; to our sponsors and guests who cheered them on; to the many students, parents, PBA faculty and staff and volunteers who worked many weeks behind the scenes leading up to, during and after the event; to the Pearl City Cultural Center for hosting us, and especially to Festival Director Jay Toyofuku and Assistant Director Liane Viloria for their tireless efforts in making Taiji: The Yin Yang of Taiko such a memorable experience.

A Group of Pilgrims Returns from Japan. As most of you are aware, I returned last Friday from a ten-day trip to Japan, the *Dento Hokoku Hoyo*, as it was called, a pilgrimage with five PBA students, a PBA parent, the Bishop, Reverend Hasebe, two tour operators, a group of bus drivers, and 37 other pilgrims from temple communities here on Oahu, as well as temple communities from neighbor islands like the Big Island, Maui and Kauai. The Hashimoto family also joined our group in Kyoto for the accession ceremony.

The primary purpose of the trip was to witness the accession ceremony of the new Gomonshu: two key words there, "accession" and "Gomonshu." An accession ceremony is a ceremony to recognize and to authorize the new leader of a community, and the Gomonshu is the spiritual leader of Jodo Shinshu, the sect of Buddhism that our school is part of.

In this case, the new Gomonshu's name and honorific, or title, is "His Eminence Monshu Kojun Ohtani," and he is the 25th-generation descendant of Shinran Shonin, who founded Jodo Shinshu more than 750 years ago.

The Hawaii pilgrims and I participated in one of the ceremonies that symbolized his accession to the role of Gomonshu. We were joined by pilgrims from other communities of Jodo Shinshu from the mainland and Canada, and, since the church has an interest in making it possible for many adherents of Jodo Shinshu to participate in the accession ceremony, the

ceremony was repeated many times over - the day we attended was one of two designated periods for practitioners from the international community.

In addition to the many ministers who participated, we members of the audience were able to watch the Gomonshu's wife and his young son witness the ceremony. The Gomonshu's son was very cute. A little guy about four or five years old (I believe), he had glasses, and twitched in his seat from time to time, but so did I! All in all he was very well behaved, and the chance to see him, and later, the Gomonshu's toddler-aged daughter, gave us in the audience the opportunity to connect with the Gomonshu as a person - a young father and spiritual leader fulfilling the obligations of his inheritance. The music of the ceremony was beautiful, too, and singing along with the hundreds assembled in the main temples of the denomination was moving. For the rest of the trip, we pilgrims traveled from place to place in Japan to sites that were important in the life of the denomination's founder, Shinran Shonin, and his predecessor Hōnen. From Kyoto, to the mountain village of Takayama, and the snow fields of Kanazawa and Akakura, nestled on the slopes of Mount Myōkō, we drove from site to site and walked through the places that had been important to the life of Shinran and his wife Eshin-ni. We traveled, laughed and ate together, and formed bonds of kinship.

In this, I want to express my gratitude to the students who traveled as pilgrims with the temple members: Aya, Jocelyn, Kaci, Sheera, and Racyn. As students of PBA, you may not be aware of this, but I want you to try to understand this: PBA exists today because of the support of the temple community. The school would not exist were it not for the original funding from church headquarters in Kyoto. The new school building would not be nearing completion were it not for more than \$4 million of support from the church community. And we would not exist today if it were not for the many many contributions, large and small - \$25 here, \$100 there - from temple members such as those we traveled with. (continued on page 12)

*Aiea Hongwanji Mission extends its
Deepest Sympathy to the family of
the Late Hanako Tateishi*

NEWS from Lotus Adult Day Care Center

If you have an aging senior who is in need of care on a daily or part time basis; the Lotus Adult Day Care Center might be the answer. We provide safe, physically and mentally interactive care for your loved ones.

Though the Lotus Adult Day Care Center is nearing capacity, we are still accepting applications for part-time participants. Give us a call at 486-5050 if you are interested in learning more.

PROJECT DANA

Volunteers are still needed to assist with transportation for doctor and dentist visits, shopping, and respite visits. for the frail, elderly and disabled living at home from Waimalu to Salt Lake. Volunteers do not do light housekeeping. Please call Frank at 772-3050 for information on becoming a Project Dana volunteer.

Orientation and training will be provided to the volunteers.

Thank you very much!

Pizza with a purpose

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server and we'll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine-in, takeout, catering and all beverages.

**Fundraiser in support of:
Aiea Hongwanji Preschool
Tuesday May 9, 2017
(All Day)**

**Valid at the following location:
California Pizza Kitchen
554 Pearlridge Center
808 487-7741**

Join the **Pizza Dough[®] Rewards** program and receive a **free Small Plate** on your next visit after registering. Register today at cpk.com or download our new app today!



**california
PIZZA KITCHEN**

Fundraiser offer valid only on the date and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501(c) organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, online ordering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third party delivery. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501(c) organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.



GOLDEN CHAIN OF LOVE

I am a link in
Amida Buddha's
Golden Chain of
Love that
stretches around
the world. I must
keep my link
bright and
strong. I will try
to be kind and
Gentle to every
living thing and
protect all who
are weaker than
myself. I will try
to think pure and
beautiful
thoughts, to say
pure and
beautiful words
and to do pure
and beautiful
deeds, knowing
on what I do
now depends
not only on my
happiness or
unhappiness but
also that of
others. May
every link In
Amida Buddha's
Golden Chain of
Love become
bright and
strong and may
we all attain
Perfect Peace.
Namo Amida
Butsu.

Senior YBA News

Please mark your calendar – May 19th (Friday) is our first Senior YBA pot luck dinner for 2017. We will be hosted by Grace and Colin Morikawa. Yes, fellowship starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite kau kau.

The next Senior YBA meeting is on Monday, May 8th, in the office at 7:30 p.m.

Happy Mother's Day! See you all at our Senior YBA meeting!

In Gassho,
George Zakahi



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

The JIKO will publish names and amounts of donations made for services or projects. If you DO NOT want your name published, please mark your donation—"NO PUBLISH", and your name will be omitted and your donation marked "Generous Member or Anonymous".

Donations listed here were received prior to approximately March 24, 2017. Donations received after this date will be published in another month's newsletter.

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HI-5 RECYCLABLE DONATIONS

- Please deposit Hi-5¢ donations outside in the back (Makai) corner of hall building where our master recycler Kazuto Tomoyasu works on it on Hosha days. Thank you Kazu for your hard work!
- Please deposit non Hi-5 items and card board at our neighborhood school depositories or your blue home recycle bins.
- To all Hall Users—Please deposit your Hi-5 recycle items in the Recycle area, not in the trash can.

- Please note—plastic drink bottles cannot be redeemed without the Hi-5 label. If label is detached, please roll it up and stick it in the bottle. Also please remove plastic caps as they will reject containers w/caps.
- If you would like to be recognized for your donation, please include your name. Thank you for your continued support.



Aiea Hongwanji Mission
99-186 Puakala Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

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U. S. Postage
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Permit No. 42

5/17



(Continued from page 9)

Now, imagine also, you are a teenager set loose, to a certain degree, in Japan on a 10-day trip. But "set loose" in the sense that you are surrounded by 37 aunts and uncles who are temple members, as well as the Bishop and your Head of School, and all eyes are on you and how you conduct yourself as representatives of PBA, and that, in no small way, you justify, or negate, all of the support the temple community has offered PBA these years. That's what was at stake in this pilgrimage. I knew that was the case going on the trip; I made the trip available to all of you who wanted to go; and I was confident that you would validate my belief in you.

And I was right in this. Aya, Jocelyn, Kaci, Sheera and Racyn were excellent pilgrims. They were kind, courteous, well-humored, and good sports. I enjoyed poking fun at them for misplacing cell phones and iPads and the like until I left my wallet on the Shinkansen.

Meanwhile, back at home, all of you continued laboring in preparation for the taiko festival. A little drama there, as I'm aware. A few numbers adjusted along the way, a hell of a lot of work, but what a show we put on! Probably more than half of the people who were pilgrims on the trip to Japan attended that Taiko Festival.

So I couldn't be more proud of this school as a sangha than I am right now. We work hard, we achieve, we celebrate, and then we get back to work. A few weeks left with us for the Class of 2017. A few weeks more till the end of the school year, and new responsibilities for those that will become the senior class. A new building to look forward to, new journeys for those graduating. But as pilgrims together in this shared journey that we call PBA, I am very very grateful to share the road with all of you.

Josh Hernandez Morse, Head of School

"BUDDHA BOWLING BASH"



Sponsored by: Oahu Lay Association

Please sign up for an afternoon of fellowship and fun!
First timers, beginners, and sandbaggers welcomed! We're bowling 3 games, and prizes will be given in various categories at the end of your 30 frames.

DATE: MAY 21, 2017

TIME: 2:00 - 5:00 PM

**PLACE: LEEWARD BOWL - 850 Kamehameha Hwy.
Pearl City**

**COST: \$20.00 per person for 3 games & shoes
Cash or check payable to: Oahu Lay Association**

**RSVP: Rene Mansho ph: 291-6151
email: renemansho@hawaii.rr.com**

DEADLINE: May 8, 2017

Hope to see you there!

Join your friends from these Hongwanji temples:

Aiea Ewa Mililani Pearl City Wahiawa
Waialua Waianae Waipahu