

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org

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2012 Hongwanji Slogan

Path of Entrusting: Recite the Nembutsu

*Namu-amida-butsu receives
A person just as is.
When the nembutsu receives a person,
No matter who or what,
The person is transformed into the nembutsu.
Celebrating and blessing life.*

*The Nembutsu takes me as I am.
Imperfect and incomplete,
With worries and problems,
And transforms everything
Into the contents of highest virtue.*

Rev. Chiso Yanagida (from Aiko Journal, 1978)

Rev. Yanagida in his poem, describes reciting the Nembutsu as the Path of Entrusting – our calendar slogan for 2012, with his saying that Namu-Amida-Butsu receives a person just as is or just as I am. Though imperfect and incomplete, with worries and problems, transforms everything into the contents of highest virtue. (Amida's great compassion)

What seems to be so special about the Nembutsu path is that it takes you, just as you are and makes no demands upon you to become wiser, better, or more perfect. It does, however, ask us to become authentically real as human beings by awakening to Amida's compassion that sustains us. Here we recognize our limitations and imperfections as karmic beings that are ultimately transformed into the contents of highest virtue.

Reciting the Nembutsu literally means, "I take refuge in Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Life and Light." Reciting Namu Amida Butsu testifies as an awakening to our humanity and leads us to the full realization of the ultimate power of Wisdom and Compassion, which we Buddhist call Buddhahood.

Reciting the Nembutsu is a total acceptance of Amida's Wisdom and Compassion at work and becomes an act of expressing gratitude, naturally arising from an awakening to the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. A man or woman who lives in the supreme knowledge and profound conviction that he is now encompassed in "Amida's eternal light which never casts one away" is known as a person who lives the life of Nembutsu.

The Nembutsu therefore, can be seen as the center of our being, the spiritual home where we find the spiritual power that impacts our moral, social, and religious lives. It verbalizes our inner awakening to the reality of life and is the sound of the infinite touching the finite. How grateful we are....how grateful we are.

Rev. David Nakamoto

CONDOLENCES

Mr. Charles Mitsuru Saiki, a member of Kapaa Hongwanji Mission, passed away on November 11, 2011. Mr. Saiki served Kapaa Hongwanji as its President from 1990 to 1991 and as a Director for many years. He contributed greatly to Kapaa Hongwanji with active leadership and through working on various activities such as the Senior Buddhist Association, Bon Dance Committee, Fundraising, Yard Camp etc. Mr. Saiki's Funeral Service, officiated by Reverend Kazunori Takahashi, was held on November 26, 2011. Ingo, MAN-TOKU-IN, which means "the one abounding with virtue", was presented by Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

Mr. Shintaro Higa, a member of Honomu Hongwanji Mission, passed away on November 30, 2011. Mr. Higa was a member of Honomu Hongwanji Mission for over 65 years and served as its Kyodan President for 2 years. He was a very active member not only attending all of the major services but also his physical assistance with many of the major projects. Mr. Higa's Funeral Service, officiated by Reverend Mariko Nishiyama, was held on December 18, 2011. Ingo, GU-ZEI-IN, which means "one who heard the Universal Vow of Amida Buddha", was presented by Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF FUND REPORT

Total Donation received: \$241,410.13

Donation was made to: Honzan (\$95,070.00) and Japan-America Society of Hawaii (\$95,000.00)

The remaining balance will also be donated to the above-mentioned organizations soon. Thank you very much everyone for your donation.

BCA DEBT RELIEF

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), our sister overseas mission, recently undertook a very aggressive project of establishing the Jodo Shinshu Center. The establishment and renovation costs of the Center have left them with a loan balance of over \$3 million. The Jodo Shinshu Center is very important to the future of Jodo Shinshu in especially North America and it and other programs of the Buddhist Churches of America have far reaching benefits which are enjoyed by Hawaii Kyodan as well. Just as Pacific Buddhist Academy is the first Shin Buddhist High School outside of Japan, the Institute of Buddhist Studies located at the Jodo Shinshu Center is the first Center of higher education (college level) for Shin Buddhism. The Center is also home to other programs like training for Overseas Ministers (including Hawaii) and the Jodo Shinshu English Correspondence Course. For all these reasons, the Board of Directors of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii recently decided to donate \$5,000 towards the relief effort on behalf of the membership of Hawaii Kyodan. Many temples have also received the same request directly. Please feel free to donate towards this worthy cause that also benefits Hawaii. Please use the attached form when making your contribution. If you need more information or have questions about the Jodo Shinshu Center and/or BCA, please contact the Headquarters Office.

YESS CAMP 29 "SHINSHU HAPPENS"

Who: Those interested in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism ages from 8th grade to 23 years old

What: A camp for Young Buddhists interested and excited to learn about Buddhism as well as a little about themselves.

Where: Camp Kokokahi, Oahu

When: March 24-26, 2012

How: Visit our website at www.tiny.cc/yesscamp or e-mail youth@honpahi.org

Why: Because it will be a fun and memorable experience!

*The application forms for camp and its scholarship are also attached with this HQ update.

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I RECOGNITION

The 37th Annual Living Treasures of Hawai'i Recognition Ceremony will be held in conjunction with the 100th Legislative Assembly's Aloha Luncheon to be held on February 4, 2012. We will be honoring Goro Arakawa, Dr. Ben Finney, Barbara Kawakami, Gordon Mark and Lynette Paglinawan. Please help us to spread the word to others that may want share this moment with the honorees. Reservation forms are available at the Headquarters office and has been posted on the Honpa Hongwanji website.

PBA News—Bodhi Day Walk for Peace

On Thursday, December 8, 2011, Oahu and Honolulu District ministers along with Rev. Bruce Nakamura from Hilo Betsuin were joined by students, faculty and staff from the Pacific Buddhist Academy in the “Bodhi Day Walk for Peace” and raised over \$19,000 in pledges toward the construction of new classroom facilities for the school. This symbolic pilgrimage spanning over five miles began at Moiliili Hongwanji and ended at Jikoen Hongwanji.

The walkers gathered in the Hondo of Moiliili Hongwanji at 6:30am for a short service in gratitude and remembrance of the Great Enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha and then set off on their journey. The group stopped for a short rest at Hawaii Betsuin and then continued onto Jikoen Hongwanji where they were greeted by cheering students from Lumbini Preschool and members of Jikoen. Along the route, the walkers were also treated to ice cold water handed out by members of the Okinawan club of Lanakila Senior Center.

In addition to raising funds for the capital campaign, the walk proved to be an uplifting and memorable experience for all who participated and deepened bonds of fellowship between our ministers and the PBA Ohana. The dedication and faith that the ministers have in the future of PBA is truly inspirational. The Capital Campaign is ongoing and the school has reached 70% of our \$5 Million goal. Your continued support is necessary to ensure a bright future for the only Shin Buddhist high school in America.

(Blayne Higa)



HQ BOOKSTORE UPDATE

The Headquarters Bookstore is now offering an original item, a **Buddhist Flag Colored Nenju** for \$10.00. It is a wrist nenju and it is made of the 5 colors of the Buddhist Flag---blue, yellow, red, white and orange; the elastic string is purple. The idea for this “**Buddhist Color Series**” of items came from Bishop Matsumoto. These five colors stand for Buddhist Spirit and we feel these bright colors will appeal to our local members. Four different sizes (L, M, S, and XS) are available. The XS size is for small children (babies, toddlers, and preschoolers) and S size is for elementary, middle school students. It can be a wonderful item to give as a gift to new Dharma School students, new members, or for the Holidays to your family and Buddhist friends. You can show your pride as a Buddhist by wearing it and displaying the colors of the Buddhist Flag.

If you are interested in these nenju, please stop by Bookstore at the Headquarters Office or contact the Bookstore Clerk, Yoshiko Umitani at (808) 522-9210 or by e-mail: hqbooks@honpahi.org. We are still have (one color) Hikari Nenju is also available at Bookstore. This is PBA fund-raising item. Suggested donation is \$10 each for the Hikari Nenju. Thank you.

