

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

February 24, 2006

In October, 2004 with seed money from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Propagation Grant (\$250) and other financial and moral support from Moiliili Hongwanji, our Oral History Committee began its work of interviewing long time members of Moiliili Hongwanji. The celebration of Moiliili Hongwanji's centennial in 2006 prompted us to do this before more of our members become unavailable to share their recollections and fondest memories of their times at our temple.

Thus far we have interviewed the following individuals. Their taped interviews and copies of their transcribed talks are kept in our archival collection.

1. Mr. Toshimasa Tando - October 5, 2004
2. Mrs. Betty Koseki - November 8, 2004
3. Mrs. Merry Kimiko Okano - Nov. 22, December 6, 15, 2004, January 29, 2005
4. Mrs. Jane Hatta - February 24, 2005
5. Ms. Cherry Matano - February 24, 2005
6. Mrs. Hideko Kumagai - March 16, 2005
7. Mr. Makoto Kunimune - November 30, 2005
8. Mr. Masayoshi Kanemitsu - January 6, 2006
9. Mrs. Toyoko Hirai - January 23, 2006
10. late Mr. Kinji Kanazawa - interviewed by Moiliili Community Center - Aug., Sept. 2002

Besides these interviews we have gathered/produced

1. Copy of a letter written to Mrs. Kodo Fujitani by a friend in 1941 (donated by daughter Mrs. Terry Yoshida)
2. Copy of an article written in Japanese about Rev. Gisho Shimotsuma (shared by daughter Mrs. Hideko Kumagai)
3. Copies of historical brochures about the Lotus Fujinkai (donated by Betty Koseki)
4. Photo and historical data of all past and present ministers of Moiliili Hongwanji (taken from Biographical History of Hawaii Hongwanji Ministers, 1991)
5. Listing of Presidents of Moiliili Kyodan, BWA and Lotus Fujinkai
6. Present listing of Presidents/leaders of temple organizations
7. History of White Way Radio Broadcast including a chronological listing by Saturday dates beginning on April 4, 1975 and by speakers. Original tapes of the first 4 broadcasts on cassette tape; reel to reel tapes and cassette tapes from June 2, 1984 to present are kept in the Sound Room on the 3rd floor.
8. Many, many temple photo albums and more recently digital photos
9. Many, many temple program booklets and brochures

Although the Centennial year will soon pass, we hope to continue interviewing members so that we can have a better understanding and appreciation of Moiliili Hongwanji's history and the legacy contributed by its many members.

Committee members are Donna Higashi (chair), Shimeji Kanazawa, Karen Murakami, Michie Motooka, Jean Sato, Walter Ebisu, Rev. Eric Matsumoto and Jeanne Watari (ex-officio). Please join us if you wish to be part of this committee.