



ONENESS

KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

April 2023

BISHOP'S CORNER

“Here I rejoice in what I have heard and extol what I have attained.”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



I would like to begin by sharing the Opening Aspiration and some thoughts which I gave at the start of our 111th Legislative Assembly held on February 10-11, 2023.

“How joyous I am, my heart and mind being rooted in the Buddha-Dharma...of the universal Vow...my thoughts and feelings flowing within the dharma-ocean...I am deeply aware of the Tathagata’s immense compassion...My joy grows ever fuller, my gratitude and indebtedness ever more compelling. Therefore, I have selected [passages expressing] the core of the Pure Land way and gathered its

essentials. ...May those who see and hear this work be brought...to manifest shinjin within the power of the Vow and reveal the incomparable fruit of enlightenment in the land of peace.” -Shinran Shonin-

This should be all of our thoughts and aspiration too, especially in 2023 as we joyously and gratefully observe the auspicious Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of the Birth of Shinran Shonin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu including the 17th World Buddhist Women’s Convention.

Last year, our Hawaii Kyodan’s slogan emphasized “Connecting with Others” and I emphasized that the primal and fundamental connection which we each should have is the connection with Amida Buddha. Then, from that connection, we, as Sangha members, further connect with others inspired by the Buddha, guided by the Dharma and motivated by gratitude for Amida Buddha’s Wisdom and Compassion. This becomes apparent in the guidance we are receiving from His Eminence Kojun Ohtani whether it is “Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching” or “Our Pledge” which he composed for us.

However, as I look at our Hawaii Kyodan and reflect on myself too, I have a concern that we have not connected with as many people as we would like to. What do you think? The steady decline in our membership suggests that we have not. Thus, today, I implore that we all share our joy for the Teachings and especially Amida Buddha’s compassion with others. Let your family and friends know that temple is a big part of your life and the reasons why. If you don’t people including your own family may not know. Just because you physically go to the temple a lot does not mean that those around you truly understand the significance of

the temple and the Teachings in your life. As your Bishop and as a temple minister, I have come across, too many, families especially grand-children and great grandchildren of our most devoted members who didn't know just how precious the temple was to their Elders. Its only at the funeral service that they find out. I lament that it is a lost opportunity. If younger family members knew how important temple was to their Elders including the reason, they too, could have possibly connected more with the temple and Jodo Shinshu.

Even in the case of Shinran Shonin, I find, at least, 4 instances, one of which is the opening aspiration with which I started, in which he relates that out of the gratitude of realizing the benevolence of the Buddha and Joy, he collects passages about Jodo Shinshu so others can come to know Amida Buddha. I am not saying we all have to write a book like Shinran Shonin, but in our own way, within our own capacities, we can share about Buddhism with others. In Hawaii, we would say "We can all talk story." On second thought, however, our sharing does not necessarily have to involve lengthy words explaining Buddhism. I say this as I reflect on my own journey to Jodo Shinshu. My grandmother (Fuji Matsumoto), according to some like Rev. Yoshihide Matsubayashi, was a devout Jodo Shin Buddhist, but she could not speak English and I, in my Middle School and High School years, could not speak Japanese. Her way of connecting me to Buddhism was to have me see her doing her daily "Praising of the Buddha's Virtue" at the home altar (which was not in her bedroom, but in the family living room). She, also, gave me the responsibility of changing the flowers on the Home Altar. So, it was that in the Matsumoto household, a Middle School kid would regularly, on a weekly basis, change the flowers at the home butsudan. From within my family, it was the first recognizable (for me) step in the budding and growing relationship that I would have with Buddhism.

Sounding like a broken record, I still firmly believe that we need more of the Buddha-Dharma to inspire and guide us as a Sangha and one of our roles as the Sangha, not limited to ministers, is to create a connection to the Dharma for people. This is what will eventually connect to growing our membership. People are searching for a warm, harmonious, safe accepting place to belong where people are happy, empathetic, and joyous. Especially, as we come out of the Pandemic it is an important time to connect with others by sharing our Joy and Appreciation of the Nembutsu. It is essential, critical that we connect with more people. It is by connecting with more people that we can also address our declining membership. Thus, at this time, guided by our 2023 slogan "Sharing Joy Together," I would like to ask all temples to create a membership committee or something similar to it, to address our declining membership. Further, I have brought to the attention of the State Ministers Association and the Ministerial Training Committee, our need to begin identifying and nurturing more individuals who can become ministers lay assistants or full-fledged overseas ministers. However, a committee can only do so much. The real work of connecting takes place at the temple level by each one of us. First, please let that Heart and Mind of True Entrusting being given by Amida Buddha blossom. Then, naturally, share your Joy and

Appreciation of Dharma especially that of Namo Amida Butsu with others by living the life of a Nembutsu follower as shared by His Eminence Kojun Ohtani.

To conclude, to one and all, please know that your devotion, dedication, contributions and efforts are deeply appreciated and I express my deepest gratitude to you. Please join me in gassho/anjali and in awareness, joy and gratitude, join me to recite Namo Amida Butsu, The Buddha's Name Which I Call in gratitude in response to Namo Amida Butsu, The Buddha's Name Which Calls Me to entrust. Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.

2023 TAITETSU UNNO MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Institute of Buddhist Studies announced the Taitetsu Unno Memorial lecture, to be delivered by Dr. Ruben Habito, and held on Friday March 31, 2023, from 1 - 3pm (HST), both in person at the Jodo Shinshu Center and virtually.

Dr. Habito shares an interesting perspective as a Zen Buddhist and former Jesuit priest, seeing the problems of the world through eastern Buddhism and western Christianity. His lecture will present using religious transcendence to heal our wounded world as we face wars, economic hardships and Global pandemics. It will also address giving meaning to jaded youth, disillusioned adults, pinpointing the sense of loss that is universally felt in the age of the Pandemic and how we can give hope for the future to our youth.

Date & Time: Friday, March 31, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (HST)

Speaker: Dr. Ruben Hábito

Topic: "BEYOND TRANSCENDENCE BACK TO EARTH: A CHALLENGE TO RELIGIONS
OUR TIME OF GLOBAL CRISIS"

Place: Zoom or in person at the Jodo Shinshu Center, CA

<https://forms.gle/pfzWDR4MjSGgRbWM9> for in person registration

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/JEpfumuDlpEty87InS_W6iUODMqs_ipx2W for Zoom

Follow the link to <https://www.shin-ibs.edu/event/2023unno/> for more information.

LGBTQIA+ 101 EDUCATIONAL SESSION

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, its Commission on Buddhist Education and its Committee on Social Concerns will sponsor the LGBTQIA+ 101 Educational Session in April 2023.

Date & Time: Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Speaker: Camaron Miyamoto, Director of the UH Manoa LGBTQ Center.
Place: In person at the Buddhist Study Center and online via Zoom
Registration: <https://forms.gle/Kwqn9QCGFUf5zcPn7>
Registration Deadline: Saturday, April 15, 2023 (Registration is FREE!)

A BOOK LAUNCH CONVERSATION

The Institute of Buddhist of Buddhist Center in conjunction with the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, announces a new book launching: “Grief, Translation, and the Wonder of Friendship: Conversation on ‘one long listening’ by Chenxing Han.

Lecture and discussion with coauthors Dr. Chenxing Han and Dr. Paula Arai. This is a “Dana” event and donations are welcome. Please follow the link : <https://www.buddhisticquiry.org/course/grief-translation-and-the-wonder-of-friendship/> for more information.

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. (HST).

Place: Zoom

PBA ARTIST SHOWCASE

Pacific Buddhist Academy invites you to join us in showcasing student artwork! Visit us on-campus on April 6th, from 4 pm -7 pm to view work from classes like ceramics, acrylics, and jewelry making. We will also have a market filled with student, staff, and alumni small businesses. We hope to see you there! Visit us online for more information at: <https://pacificbuddhistacademy.org/student-life/artist-showcase>

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF JATAKA TALES

Following the Hawaii Buddhist Council Buddha Day service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2023, there will be a special presentation of Jataka Tales by Jeff Gere with a violinist Lesley Kline.

Jataka Tales are Buddhist Teaching Tales in which the Buddha appears as an animal with life lessons. In this delightful family-friendly performance, popular Oahu storyteller JEFF GERE tells these simple profound tales in his animated dramatic style, and with shadow puppets. Innovative violin wizard LESLEY KLINE adds her rich musical textures.

You can watch it as live presentation through the HBC YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/o-OUS-mwdow?feature=share>

For those who live on the Oahu Island, you can join the in-person event at Jodo Mission of Hawaii. (1429 Makiki Street, Honolulu)

SAVE THE DATE

The date of the 2023 BSC Summer Session has been changed. Please mark your calendar.

Date & Time: June 5 - 9, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
(Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church)

Place: In person at the Buddhist Study Center and online via Zoom

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENT

Rev. Mieko Majima, currently serving at the Headquarters as the Office of Buddhist Education Assistant and Kapaa Hongwanji Mission as its resident minister, will be relieved from her current duties and assigned to Kapaa Hongwanji Mission as its full-time resident minister as of April 1, 2023.

TEMPLES' ANNIVERSARY ARTICLES

Hongwanji International Center in Kyoto put together the HHMH Temples' Anniversary articles on their website. You may visit their website https://international.hongwanji.or.jp/html/2302_1.html or read attached documents.

Kapa'a Hongwanji celebrates 100 years

The following article appeared on Oct. 24, 2022 in The Garden Island. Reprinted with permission from Dennis Fujimoto/ The Garden Island.

KAPA'A — The Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sunday with a special commemorative service officiated by Honpa Honwanji Mission of Hawai'i Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

More than a hundred years ago, the first-generation immigrants arrived from Japan, settling in different parts of Kaua'i to work on the plantations. Their arrival in Hawai'i was accompanied by Shin



Photo by Dennis Fujimoto/ The Garden Island

Buddhism that celebrated its first Jodo Shinshu Buddhist service in the kingdom on March 3, 1889,

making it one of the oldest continuous living Buddhist traditions in America. "Many settled on the

Eastside of the island in the towns of Kealia and Kapa‘a. They faced a difficult life working on the plantations with meager wages and poor housing,” said the Rev. Mieko Majima of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji.

“Despite these hardships, the first generation never forgot their Jodo Shinshu upbringing. During the early years, they met at homes to organize their mission and, later, through their relentless effort, a temple was established in Kapa‘a in 1922 where they could continue to gather and listen to the Dharma, or the teaching of Buddhism,” she said.

Matsumoto received support and help from Majima and previous ministers who tenured at the Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission. That included the Rev. Tomo Hojo, who coordinated the centennial observance, the Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, who now serves at the Hilo Betsuin, the Rev. Shinkai Murakami and the Rev. Koshō Yagi, who recently took over as the minister at the Lihū‘e Hongwanji Mission.

Kapa‘a Hongwanji, one of about three dozen churches affiliated with the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i, first sprouted as the Kealia Hongwanji’s Fukyojo branch in 1910 before becoming independent after its first temple was constructed in September 1922 on land leased from the County of Kaua‘i, with the Rev. Yoshio Ito taking charge for a year.

The temple was destroyed by a fire in 1929, leading to three parcels of land being purchased from the Territory of Hawai‘i, where the Young Buddhists of America hall was constructed, and a new temple built in 1938.

World War II brought difficult times to Buddhist ministers in Hawai‘i, and in December 1941, the Rev. Hironori Nishie was sent to a relocation camp on the mainland. During his absence, Jihei Miura was elected to care for the temple’s butsudān when all facilities were used by the United States Army as officers’ headquarters. This was a time when all properties belonging to Kapa‘a Hongwanji were deeded to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i.

In 1974, the Kealia Hongwanji closed, and its 30 members became part of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji, along with Buddhists in Kilauea and Hanalei.

“We are truly grateful to the founders and members of Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission, and pay tribute to their many accomplishments over the century,” Majima said. “Let us not forget these members and friends, who have been strong role models for all of us, and continue their legacy to the next generation.”

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Dennis Fujimoto, staff writer and photographer, can be reached at 808-245-0453 or dfujimoto@thegardenisland.com.



(top) Rev. Tomo Hojo of the West Kaua‘i Hongwanji lights the ceremonial candles Sunday as Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Rev. Mieko Majima of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission look on.

(bottom) Bishop Eric Matsumoto enters the altar Sunday to begin the service that celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Kapa‘a Hongwanji Mission.

Links to Kapa‘a Hongwanji and West Kauai Hongwanji articles

- <https://www.thegardenisland.com/2022/10/24/hawaii-news/kapaa-hongwanji-celebrates-100-years/>
- <https://www.thegardenisland.com/2022/11/14/hawaii-news/west-kauai-hongwanji-mission-celebrates-25-years/>

MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & SUPPORT
February 24-March 28

Funeral Service

In memory of the late...

Howard Nagaoka - Lois Hamada
Sandy Wakumoto - Patricia Sugai

Memorial Service

In memory of the late...

Mrs. Mitsuko Higashiyama -
Roy & Leila Nishida
Clyde & Kay Takekuma,
Erin Takekuma,
Tami Takekuma
Mr. Richard Makoto Seshiki -
Carole Seshiki
Kathleen Taira
Mrs. Sally Okamoto -
Penny Shissler & Family

Installation Service

Ralph Kitashima
Carol Saiki
Clyde Takekuma
Tami Takekuma
Gloria Shimizu
Pearl Shimizu
Roberta Yanagawa

Spring Ohigan Service

Ralph Kitashima
Carol Saiki
Gloria Shimizu
Roberta Yanagawa

Sunday Service

Ralph Kitashima
Leanora Orr
Carol Saiki
Gloria Shimizu
Roberta Yanagawa

Building Fund

Robert Hiraoka
Amy Isobe
Helen Iwai
Raymond Kawamoto
Camilla Sone
Dennis & Sadie Sunada
Kathleen Taira
Tami Takekuma

Columbarium

Anonymous

Membership

Sharon Contrades
Marie Hashimura
Amy Isobe
Helen Iwai
Roy & Leila Nishida
Evelyn Nakamura
Camilla Sone
Gloria Shimizu
Kathleen Taira
Tami Takekuma
Patricia Yamamoto

Miscellaneous

David Ishida
Ruby Ishida
Lorna Nishimitsu
Penny Purviance
Rona Sakai
Henrietta Yamaguchi

Hall Rental

King's Chapel

Volunteer Support

Madison Doo
Marie Hashimura
David & Ruby Ishida
Stanford Iwamoto
Winston Kawamoto
Ralph Kitashima
Haven Kuboyama
Rev. Mieko Majima
Milton Nakamura
Ray Paler
Kaleigh Ramil
Tami Ramil
Carol Saiki
Calvin & Rona Sakai
Gloria Shimizu
Pearl Shimizu
Joan Slingerland
Dennis & Sadie Sunada
Clyde & Kay Takekuma
Erin Takekuma
Keith & Thelma Tsukamoto
Brian & Wendy Yamamoto
Patricia Yamamoto



from the president's corner...

Aloha everyone!

We welcome the month of April. Most young people remember April Fools Day and enjoy playing jokes on their friends and family on April 1st. At Kapaa Hongwanji, we congratulate Rev. Majima on her 8th anniversary as our resident minister. We are grateful to have a resident minister who is able to share the Buddha's message with us, officiates and conducts various services, guides us in making wise decisions and keeps everyone safe at the temple during the pandemic. The highlight of this month is Buddha Day or Hanamatsuri on April 8. Happy Birthday Buddha! The Kauai Buddhist Council will be observing Buddha Day on Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 9:30 am at the Kauai Soto Zenshuji Temple in Hanapepe. All are welcome!

Hanamatsuri (The Buddha Day) Service - Kauai Buddhist Council scheduled this service on April 9, 2023 at 9:30 am at Soto Zen Temple. Everyone is welcome.

Lanterns of Remembrance - We will once again be sending you information in May to donate a lantern in memory of your departed loved ones. We had an overwhelming response last year and have decided to continue to hang the lanterns in remembrance of your loved ones. The lanterns will be displayed in the temple and on the temple lanai for the Hatsubon Service, Family Obon Service and the Bon Dance Festival. Hatsubon is a memorial service for our loved ones who passed away in the past year.

Building Maintenance Fund- A very special thank you to all of you for your generous contributions to support the Building Maintenance Fund. We are very grateful for your generous support. Your contribution will help to repair and preserve the temple and parsonage.

We will be able to begin the re-roofing of the parsonage. This project is long overdue and hopefully when the weather improves work will begin before we have leaking problems. The next project will be the repairs to the oceanside of the temple which is constantly hit by the wind, rain and salt. Hopefully we will be able to do this when we receive sufficient funding.

Women's Association

The Kauai United Hongwanji BWA will be observing Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni Day Service on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. The Kapaa Hongwanji BWA will be hosting the service. Everyone is welcome to attend. Eshin-ni was the wife of our founder Shinran Shonin. She is revered for her dedication to Shinran during his productive years. Kakushin-ni, his daughter, is known for being her father's caregiver in his final years. She is revered for planting the seeds that were to grow into today's Hongwanji. Let us observe this service together in remembrance of Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni.

Memorial Service

April				May			
Nancy Yoshie	Masada	1st	4/12/2022	Herman Haru	Hasegawa	17th	5/4/2007
Mitsue	Hirata	1st	4/25/2022	Yasuyo	Oshita	27th	5/7/1997
Tatsuo	Asari	7th	4/26/2017	Eitaro	Yamagata	50th	5/8/1974
Yoshie	Maruta	23rd	4/27/2001	Sugie	Nishimoto	23rd	5/16/2001
Alice Yasuko	Otaki Halla	17th	4/30/2007	Yoshizo	Yoshida	50th	5/16/1974
				Tadao	Nishio	13th	5/20/2011
				Shosuke	Shima- bukuro	50th	5/23/1974

From Minister's Desk

We observe The Buddha Day Service (Hanamatsuri) on April 9.

The *Hanamatsuri* means “The Flower Festival” and is held to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini Gaden. During the service, a flower shrine *Hanamido* is set up before the main altar to symbolize the Lumbini Garden. The sangha offers flowers and pours sweet tea over the statue of the infant Buddha. This simplified reenactment of the Buddha’s birth signifies joy that filled the world at this event.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Memoriam...

Kapaa Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy to families who have recently lost their loved ones.

Clyde Takeshi Ishida



Namo Amida Butsu

Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

4/1/2023	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Kaleigh Ramil	Ruby Ishida
4/8/2023	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Joan Slingerland
4/15/2023	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki	Kay Takekuma
4/22/2023	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Rona Sakai
4/29/2023	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler	Roberta Yanagawa
5/6/2023	Group 2	Mr. Clint Saiki - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Ruby Ishida

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

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ONENESS

The Newsletter of
Kapaa Hongwanji Mission
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Phone (808) 822-4667



April 2023

Monthly Memorial Service

April 2, 2023, 9:00 am

Buddha Day Service

April 9, 2023, 9:30 am @ Soto Zen Temple

Eshinni Kakushinni Service

April 16, 2023, 9:30 am

Family Service

April 23, 2023, 9:00 am

No Service

April 30, 2023

