



ONENESS

KAPAA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

May 2023

“Aloha, where East Meets West:

A Significant Mo'olelo (Story) From My Faith.”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



Earlier this year, in observance of the United Nation's World Interfaith Harmony, numerous faith traditions gathered for the 3rd World Religions' Conference sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Honolulu at their Kalihi Mosque. Bishop Eric Matsumoto was invited to represent the Buddhist Community. Each tradition was given 7 minutes for a presentation on the theme. The following message is a condensed version of the message shared by Bishop Matsumoto introducing the story of Kisagotami (slightly adapted) from BDK's *The Teaching of Buddha*.

Once, there was a young woman named Kisagotami, the wife of a wealthy man, who lost her mind because of the death of her child. She took the dead child in her arms and went from house to house begging people to heal the child. Of course, they could do nothing for her, but finally a follower of the Buddha advised her to see the Blessed One (Sakyamuni Buddha).

The Blessed One looked upon her with empathy and said: “To heal the child I need some poppy seeds; go and beg for four or five poppy seeds from some home where death has never entered.”

So (she)...sought a house where death had never entered, but in vain. At last, she was obliged to return to the Buddha. In his quiet presence her mind cleared and she understood the meaning of his words. ...(she)...became one of his disciples.

This actual story from the life of the Historic Buddha shares the truth or reality of impermanence, that everyone and everything is subject to change including the human body which, born of conditional causes and conditions, is thus subject to old age, sickness and death. This may sound pessimistic, but in actuality it depicts reality. The

goal of Buddhism is to be in touch with reality and in that way attain perfect peace and tranquility by becoming aware and thus not attached to false perceptions of our ego. As the Historic Buddha said,

Life is ever changing; none can escape the dissolution of the body. ...the true Buddha is not a human body: -it is Enlightenment. A human body must die, but the Wisdom of Enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma...

This understanding of the impermanent nature of the self, however, does not totally negate life and living and deny the significance of the body as we find in the following quote.

Those who hear and receive the Buddha's teaching know that their lives are transient...so they do not become attached to them. At the same time, they do not neglect to take good care of their bodies, not because they wish to enjoy the physical pleasures of the body, but because the body is temporarily necessary for the attainment of wisdom and for their mission of explaining the Path to others.

The Buddhist view embraces old age, sickness and death as a natural part of life. Ajahn Brahm shares

I came to know...a region steeped in Buddhist teachings...(where) death was accepted by all in a way that defied Western theories of grief and loss. ...there is an alternative to grief. Not that grief is wrong, only that there is another possibility.

Loss of a loved one can be viewed in a second way, a way that avoids the long days of aching grief." "Grief is seeing only what has been taken away from you. The celebration of life is recognizing all that we were blessed with, and feeling so very grateful.

From my own Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhist Tradition, I am recalling a poem written by Ayako Suzuki. She died of cancer, but she wrote the following remarkable poem.

Now I finally understand the Buddha's words.

*For this life that I have
received, I am very
thankful.*

*For this body that is able to
listen To the Buddha-
Dharma,*

I am very thankful.

For the Nembutsu that I have been able to receive, I am very thankful.

And now, with inner joy and gratitude, I also receive the end of my life.

Ayako Suzuki encountered both the Wisdom and the Compassion of Enlightenment. It is not the attainment of Enlightenment by her, but she came into contact with it. On one hand, she came to understand one aspect of the Wisdom of Enlightenment that life is subject to change and at the same time she experienced the embrace of the Amida Buddha's Great Compassion known as Namo Amida Butsu, which, unconditionally, just as we are, embraces one and all who Entrust, and vows that no matter what I shall never abandon you (and all who Entrust) under any circumstance and eventually bring about your Enlightenment.

Now, what does this have to do with "East meets West?" There is much we can learn from this "Eastern" view of life and when combined with the "Western" role of medicine and health care, it can produce a much more balanced view of life and a realistic role of medicine and health care which will benefit patients and health care professionals too. I am a supporter of the integration of spiritual care into health care for a more wholistic approach as being advocated by individuals such as Dr. Christina Puchalski.

To conclude, for us of Hawaii guided by the Aloha Spirit, we are in a good position to offer to the world, a very special gift. Hawaii is truly where "East meets West" and today's program is a prime example of it. I am honored to have been able to share today. Thank you and Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All- Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.



SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMUNITY GIVING UPDATE

The Committee on Social Concerns recently made donations to extend compassionate action into the local community:

Community Giving

- \$2,500 Ohana Arts—Peace on Your Wings Japan Tour
- \$2,500 Commission on Buddhist Education “Buddhism and Coming Out” initiative to support LGBTQIA+ trainings and educational materials for temples.
- \$1,000 Maui Farm
- \$1,000 Vibrant Hawaii
- \$500 Hawaii State Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters 2023 Summit

Disaster Relief

\$250

Shut Down Red Hill Mutual Aid—Matching grant to supplement Green Hongwanji Committee/Honolulu Hongwanji Council donation to purchase clean water for families affected by the Red Hill water crisis.

\$1,000

Omimai for Kahului Hongwanji Member

Golden Chain Grant

- \$500 Windward Buddhist Temple “Kailua Service Care Events” assisting homeless individuals in the community.
- \$1,000 Puna Hongwanji Buddhist Temple “Children’s Day Sharing Joy” community event.
- \$1,000 Naalehu Hongwanji Mission “Help the Seniors Project” assisting kupuna living alone in the community.

The Committee on Social Concerns serves a vital role in sharing the living teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in practical and meaningful ways that directly impacts the lives of individuals and communities. Mahalo for your continued support!

MAHALO FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & SUPPORT

March 29 - April 19

Memorial Service

In memory of the late..

Mineichi Saiki - Saiki Family
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nagaoka, Mark,
Judith, & Edwin Nagaoka- Ed Nagaoka

In Memory of the late...

Clarence Yukio Ishida - Charlene Quinones

Sunday Service

Ralph Kitashima
Ed Nagaoka
Carol Saiki
Gloria Shimizu
Erin Takekuma
Roberta Yanagawa

Building Repair Fund

Dr. Gary & Susan Morita

Membership

Sharon Contrades
Evelyn Nakamura
Joan Slingerland

Friends & Supporters

Dr. Gary & Susan Morita

Hall Rental

Jennifer Bell Gray
Kings Chapel

Volunteer Support

Madison Doo
Marie Hashimura
Robert Hiraoka
David & Ruby Ishida
Stanford Iwamoto
Winston Kawamoto
Ralph Kitashima
Haven Kuboyama
Rev. Mieko Majima
Milton Nakamura
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 hope you are all well, happy and smiling each day.

During Obon season, we rejoice in the benevolence of our loved ones who were awakened to the Immeasurable Life and are watching over us. The Buddha said, "We could never repay their gracious kindness, even if we could carry them on our shoulders for hundreds of years."

A smile reflects joy which spreads to others and can instantly put you in a better mood and send a positive feeling to everyone. "Because of your smile, you make life more beautiful." - Thich Nhat Hanh

We are excited to resume the 2023 Bon Dance Season. Kapaa Hongwanji will be opening the season with the Bon Festival on June 9-10.

Our Bon Festivities will begin with the observance of the Hatsubon Service on Friday, June 9 at 6:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. the Bon Festival opening ceremony. The Bon Dance will begin

at 7:30 p.m. The Family Bon Service will be observed later on July 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Once again, we would like to remember our predecessors who influenced our lives with a "Lantern of Remembrance." It is a wonderful time to express our gratitude to those who worked hard through the teachings and contributed to our life.

We will have three sizes of lanterns: Small-8 inches, Medium-10 inches, and Large-12 inches. You may donate a lantern for your loved ones who passed away. Please select the lantern of your choice on the form below.

The deadline to donate a lantern is June 3, 2023. Lanterns will adorn the temple for the Hatsuon Service, Family Obon Service and on the temple lanai for the Bon Dance Festival.

We sincerely appreciate your thoughtful remembrance and grateful for your generous donation.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address:

Phone:

In Loving Memory of

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

I would like to donate a lantern in memory of my loved one.

___ Small (8 inches) \$30.00 donation ___ Medium (10 inches) \$50.00 donation

___ Large (12 inches) \$100.00 donation Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Kapaa Hongwanji Mission, and send to 4-1170 Kuhio Hwy. Kapaa, HI. 96746

Memorial Service

May				June			
Herman Haru	Hasegawa	17th	5/4/2007	Katsumi	Ikeda	7th	6/5/2017
Yasuyo	Oshita	27th	5/7/1997	Clarence Yukio	Ishida	7th	6/10/2017
Eitaro	Yamagata	50th	5/8/1974	Eleanoir	Seshiki	1st	6/10/2022
Sugie	Nishimoto	23rd	5/16/2001	Haruo	Watanabe	17th	6/13/2007
Yoshizo	Yoshida	50th	5/16/1974	Francis	Ikeda	7th	6/17/2017
Tadao	Nishio	13th	5/20/2011	Hatsue	Shimada	50th	6/20/1974
Shosuke	Shima-bukuro	50th	5/23/1974	Iwao	Mitsui	33rd	6/24/1991
				Alice	Taogoshi	1st	6/25/2022

From Minister's Desk

May is the month for Gotan-e, the celebration of our founder, Shinran Shonin's birth. In addition to special services, the meditative Japanese theater "noh" and tea ceremony, are held at Honzan and the affiliated organization.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Memoriam...

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



Namo Amida Butsu

Temple Cleaning & Flower Arrangement

5/6/2023	Group 2	Mr. Clint Saiki - Chair Mrs. Yasuko Murakami, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Yanagawa	Ruby Ishida
5/13/2023	Group 3	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Takekuma - Chair Mr. Stanford Iwamoto, Mrs. Erin Takekuma, Ms. Madison Doo, Mrs. Tami Ramil, Ms. Kaleigh Ramil	Joan Slingerland
5/20/2023	Group 4	Ms. Gloria Shimizu - Chair Mr. Haven Kuboyama, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sunada, Mrs. Pat Yamamoto	Kay Takekuma
5/27/2023	Group 5	Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Sakai - Chair Ms. Carol Saiki	Rona Sakai
6/3/2023	Group 6	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tsukamoto - Chair Mr. & Mrs. Brian Yamamoto, Mr. Winston Kawamoto	Ruby Ishida
6/10/2023	Group 1	Mrs. Marie Hashimura - Chair Mr. Milton Nakamura, Mr. Ray Paler Mr. Robert Hiraoka	Joan Slingerland

KAPAA HONGWANJI MISSION

4-1170 Kuhio Highway

Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

ONENESS

The Newsletter of
Kapaa Hongwanji Mission
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www.kapaahongwanji.org
Phone (808) 822-4667



May 2023

No Service
May 7, 2023

Monthly Memorial Service
May 14, 2023, 9:00 am

Gotan-e Service
May 21, 2023, 9:00 am

Family Service
May 28, 2023, 9:00 am

Baccalaureate Service
June 4, 2023, 10:00 am

