



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

May 2021

P.O. Box 188, Makawao, Maui, HI 96768

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E-mail: makawaohongwanji@gmail.com Website: makawaohongwanji.org Resident Minister: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI MISSION
P. O. BOX 188
Makawao, HI.—96768

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MAY 5, CHILDREN'S DAY

**GOTAN-E
SHINRAN
SHONIN'S
BIRTHDAY**

MAY 21



MAY 9

***HAPPY CHILDREN'S DAY
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHINRAN***

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Burn Out and Buddhism: It's Always About ME!

“Burn Out,” “Hit the Wall,” and “Crash and Burn” are all uniquely American phrases describing the situation where one becomes physically, mentally, emotionally, psychologically, or spiritually exhausted, unable to continue forward, after working too hard, too long, or without purpose or meaning.

And it happened to me again. When you read this message, I will be playing with nine year old granddaughter Melody, and one year old grandson Cadence, who has started walking and talking. I will also be giving Mimy a break from full-time babysitter duties, which she's been doing since the end of January.

This is the first “real” vacation I've taken in three years since starting as resident minister of Makawao Hongwanji in June 2018—although mentor ministers taught me with a smile, **“For a temple minister, every day is a day off and a work day.”**

Hongwanji Hawaii ministers are contractually obligated to work a six-day week, be “on call” 24x7 for end-of-life religious services, open and close the temple daily, and be first responder if the alarm system is triggered at 3:00 a.m. in the morning. To take a “Leave of Absence” for any reason requires arranging for another minister on Maui to be “on call” in case there is a request for end-of-life services. And the minister must make arrangements to cover regularly scheduled Sunday Services, study classes, visitations to hospitals, care homes, and hospices. And figure out what to do for podcasts, livestream broadcasts, and endless Zoom meetings.

On the other hand, if the minister decides to take the afternoon off to go fishing, he/she/they are free to do so! Such being the case, why would a minister “burn out”?

In my case, it's really simple: **It's always about ME (my ego)!** As an executive, I took pride in my ability to work 100 hours a week, 14 hours a days, every day. The ability to out-work the “other guy” is how you become recognized and rewarded as a “winner” and how the other guy gets tagged as a “loser” and gets downsized or pushed out.

Even as a minister, I still take pride in working 100 hours a week. My day starts at 4:00 a.m. (old guy bladder says, “Eh! I need make *shishi now*, brah!”), livestream at 6:30 a.m., 7:00 a.m., and 8:30 a.m., then do “regular” work during the day, then join the inevitable two hour Zoom meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. to decide very little except when we are having the next meeting.

Choosing the life of a Buddhist priest and minister is obviously not a rational decision. You are not going to become rich and famous as a minister with Hongwanji Hawaii! One chooses to become—and to continue being—a Hongwanji minister only because of the Faith of Shinjin, the absolute conviction that we are embraced by Amida's Great Love and Great Compassion, thus our birth in the Pure Land and becoming Buddha is assured in this life.

In the Hongwanji tradition, “Shinjin” is simultaneous realization of one's own human limitations, weaknesses, and self-centeredness and awakening to reality-as-it-is, True and Real Life, Namu Amida Butsu, the Nembutsu, Amida Buddha. This moment of transformation is described by Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji tradition, as “*eshin*” or a “turning of the heart,” a change of heart, an adjustment of attitude, a new outlook on this unrepeatable life.

This is the Faith of Shinjin, the source of True and Real Life, a life of gratitude, compassion, and being kind and gentle to every living thing.

Continues on Page 3

So, why would I “burn out”?

“Hello. My name is Kerry and I’m a stress addict.”

For me, addiction is the ultimate expression of my self-centeredness. In the light of Amida’s Great Wisdom, I realized that I am addicted to stress. I need stress. I want stress. I crave stress. **In a single thought-moment, I awakened to my reality-as-it-is, “If there isn’t enough stress in my life, I create it!”**

I smoked cigarettes and drank eight cups of coffee a day for 25 years to stay wired to keep pushing through. I went drinking every night for 25 years because it’s expected behavior for executives in Japan and East Asia because real business is conducted during drinking sessions.

Even as a minister, I keep pushing myself harder and harder and harder...gotta be more productive... gotta be more creative...gotta be more profound...gotta “WIN!”

In the past month, I “hit the wall” physically: Emergency root canal! Repetitive Stress Injury! Diverticulitis! Bad reaction to Pfizer vaccinations! I “burned out” emotionally: Being apart from Mimy forced me to realize just how much “work” is involved in cooking, cleaning, laundry, making the bed, fixing the straps on my robes, etc. (Mahalo, Mimy!)

But the underlying cause of my “suffering” is ME (my ego)!

“Perfectionism” is a valued trait in the creative realm but, taken to extremes, often irritates other people and can hinder one’s life. Then, “Perfectionism” becomes a mental health “disorder” (OCD = Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder) that could be treated medically.

In the real world, though, OCD does have its advantages: point me at a baby that needs a new diaper and I am your man!

“Perfectionism” when applied to one’s spiritual understanding, one’s faith, one’s religious experience, however, all too easily becomes the clearest manifestation of how “ME (my ego)” is the cause of suffering, discontent, depression, and stress addiction!

Crafting the **perfect** words, creating the **perfect** image, producing the **perfect** livestream, writing the **perfect** Dharma Talk, the **perfect** script for Barkley and Lucy during the Children’s Story Time, every time, indefinitely, is not *humanly* possible.

I know “perfect” is not possible and yet I am driven, compelled, and ultimately burned out by my self-centered need/craving/desire/obsession/compulsion to be “perfect.” This is the human condition as identified by both Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shōnin: I know that perfect is not possible and yet I am driven and obsessed with perfection!

In that single thought-moment, Amida smiles and says, “Dude, you misspelled Nembutsu again. Namo Amida Butsu!”

Awakening to Amida, my reality-as-it-is and especially ME-as-I-am, makes me laugh at myself all the time. Especially in this *samsara* world of confusion and delusion, the ability to see your Ego-Self (ME) in action in the unhindered light of Amida’s Wisdom naturally leads to the ability to laugh at yourself reacting in stupid ways to the inevitable ups and downs of this unrepeatable life. And, ironically, this ability to see oneself, one’s true self, one’s Ego-Self, clearly is the source of strength and serenity as this unrepeatable life unfolds naturally.

And so, with your understanding and support, I'm off for two weeks to change diapers, change my attitude, and, hopefully, change my relationship with "stress."

Anicca 「諸行無常」 **"All things are impermanent," including ME!**

May your day be filled with aloha,

Rev. Kerry

P.S. "Be good. But not too much!"

KAHUKU HONGWANJI SCHOLARSHIP

The Kahuku Hongwanji Mission closed its doors in February 2013 after serving its membership for 111 years. To maintain the legacy of the Kahuku Hongwanji Mission and to develop the future generations of the Hongwanji, Kahuku Hongwanji Mission established a scholarship to support students at the college level.

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a member of the BSC Fellowship Club or an active member of a Hawaii Kyodan organization.
- The applicant must be a full-time student of an accredited college, university, or a post-high school program in the State of Hawaii, and earn a minimum of 12 college credits per semester.
- The applicant must have a required minimum college GPA of 2.5.
- The applicant must be of college age up to 35 years old.
- The applicant must submit the application form with an essay on "Dharma and My Life".

Application Deadline: July 31, 2021

Scholarship Amount: \$2,000.00 each / two recipients

For more information of this scholarship, please contact the HHMH Headquarters at (808) 522-9200 or email at hqs@honpahi.org

May & June 2021 Memorial Anniversaries

(Please call Temple Office to schedule your service—572-7229)

1st Year Memorial Service 2020

May - None

1st Year Memorial service 2020

June - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2019

May - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2019

June - None

7th Year Memorial Service 2015

May 12 Sachiye Gohara

7th Year Memorial Service 2015

June 18 Yoshie Omori Okuni

June 30 Frederick Kiyoshi Fujimoto

13th Year Memorial Service 2009

May 05 Masami Otsubo

May 07 Teruko Kawabe

May 11 Hatsumi Sugimura

13th Year Memorial Service 2009

June 13 Patrick Yasuo Hamai

June 19 Edwin Yukio Nishiyama

17th Year Memorial Service 2005

May 28 Yoshie Hedani Terao

17th Year Memorial Service 2005

June 01 Misao Honda

June 24 Tokio Okimoto

25th Year Memorial Service 1997

May 05 Shoichi Karimoto

May 26 Yuwao Matsumura

25th Year Memorial Service 1997

June 24 Toshiko Nagata

June 25 Tadashi Ishizu

33rd Year Memorial Service 1989

May 25 Tetsuo Sato

33rd Year Memorial Service 1989

June 03 Keiichi Shiratori

June 21 Yoshio Fukushima

June 23 Shigeko Tanaka

50th Year Memorial Service 1972

May 05 Kango Nakanishi

May 08 Shigeyuki Nagahiro

May 10 Eijiro Takakura

May 14 Heigoro Nishikawa

50th Year Memorial Service 1972

June - None



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope that you and your families are doing well in what are unprecedented times. As I said last month, hang in there, we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

While our temple has been closed since early last year, our hard working volunteer leadership has continued working tirelessly for our temple. Our executive council meets once a month, either in person or by zoom, with nearly 100% attendance. Membership of the temple is first and foremost for our temple to survive. Reminding folks to pay their dues is a challenge that co-

chairs, Diane Kosaka and Sharon Higuchi work hard at trying to sustain. Our maintenance committee under Calvin Higuchi has continued to monitor and do repairs to our facilities. Our properties committee under Ray Nakagawa and Gail Hamai has our 4 rental units fully rented and maintained. They are planning some major landscaping changes to beautify our campus and to ease some of the laborious yard work such as hedge trimming and weeding. The funeral and Nokotsudo/Columbarium committee headed by Sharon Higuchi and Sharon Nagoshi continue to meet to address temple policies and to assist with funeral planning and memorial services while adhering to strict Covic 19 governance. The always reliable BWA ladies, led by President Carol Yamamura, continue to come together to help the temple fund raise by pickling and selling our delicious sambai zuke, baking cookies, preparing bentos, chow fun, manju, jams, and pickled peach for our drive-through food fundraisers. Our activities committee, headed by Bobbi Nakagawa, is responsible for the planning of temple activities throughout the year. It has been decided that this year all of our special services and celebrations such as Hanamatsuri and Obon be conducted virtually. With the help of our tech savvy Reverend Kerry, and parent volunteer Sean Higuchi, our dharma school teacher/ producer, Karen Ishizu along with Sharon Nagoshi and our secretary/photographer, Jean Heselden, MHBT held an on-line Hanamatsuri service featuring our dharma school students performing a skit called, "Wash Your Hands", and families pouring sweet tea on the Buddha with a nicely decorated Hanamido. We are truly grateful for Reverend Kerry, who keeps everyone in contact virtually, whether it is for council meetings, Sunday services, morning chanting, or even zoom funerals. Let's also not forget our hard working temple Secretary, Rie Taketa supporting everyone with kindness, and treasurer/accountant, Fred Wong, who quietly pays all our bills, keeps the books, and takes care of our banking needs.

There are also many others whom I haven't mentioned in this article, working behind the scenes, supporting the temple. So you can see that our volunteer worker bees are all still humming along, working for all of us. A big MAHALO to all of you!

For those of you who haven't seen the Eshin-ni Kakushin-ni Service, you don't want to miss Carol Yamamura, and the great presentation produced by Marilyn Morikawa, (our temple historian). Marilyn has pictures and information about the ladies who were instrumental in helping to build and nurture our temple from the 1960s in Paia. It brought back a lot of memories. You can view it on Facebook and You Tube at your convenience. Thank you Marilyn!

Until next time, may you be Happy and Well and stay safe!

In Gassho,

Clyde

Donations - Makawao Hongwanji Mission can operate only because of the generous donations from many, many people. All donations are humbly received with sincere gratitude and appreciation. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR DONATION PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER, OR IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR DONATION LISTED AS ANONYMOUS, PLEASE INDICATE SO BY ATTACHING A NOTE TO YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

Contributions March 25, 2021 to April 24, 2021

DONATION:

Alice Sugimura

Donald and Faith Ito

Florence Sakae

Hanamatsuri donation – Lynn Pilarski, Marion Morikawa, Lyman and Marilyn Morikawa, Noboru Hironaka, Gail and Peter Nakamae, Marcie and Carlin Ventura, Diane and Sidney Nako, Robert and Sherri Okuni

In memory of Yoshio Kijima – Shizue Miyasato, Gordon and Lynette Watanabe, Sandra Cross and family, Shigeru and Carol Karakawa

In memory of Clara and Lester Hamai – Clyde and Gail Hamai

In memory of Glen Isobe – Arthur Onikama

In memory of Michiko Tanaka – Hiromi and Jo-Anne Tanaka, Mark Tanaka, Mitzi Tanaka

In memory of Florence Yoshizu – Shigeru and Carol Karakawa

In memory of Ellen Okada – Shigeru and Carol Karakawa

In memory of Edwin Yamamura (1st year memorial) – Edwin and Mieko Kanemoto, Pearl Yamamoto

Henry Koja -- daikon

OFUSE:

Funeral service for Yoshiharu Nakamura – Family of Yoshiharu Nakamura

Inurnment service for Helen Freitas – Family of Helen Freitas

1st year memorial service for Kenneth Yuji Oishi – Family of Kenneth Yuji Oishi

7th year memorial service for Kay Keiko Watanabe – Family of Kay Keiko Watanabe

13th year memorial service for Glen H. Isobe – Family of Glen H. Isobe

13th year memorial service for Masami Otsubo – Family of Masami Otsubo

13th year memorial service for Teruko Kawabe – Family of Teruko Kawabe

NOKOTSUDO:

Gay Sibonga

Shigeru and Carol Karakawa

Mae Balmores

Patsy Makimoto

Harold Makimoto

Sharon Fujioka

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING: \$120.45



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~ REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK



2021 CBE Seminars Online For All SUMMER: JUNE ~ AUGUST

All events listed in Pacific Time - Check your local time

<p>SATURDAY JUNE 19 *11 am - 1 pm REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>EMBRACED AND NEVER ABANDONED: JODO SHINSHU AND LGBTQ+ Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple</p>	  <p>Rev. Umezu</p>
<p>SATURDAY JUNE 26 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>KINNARA: THE ROOTS OF TAIKO IN THE US Discussion with Rev. Masao Kodani, BCA Minister Emeritus, and Johnny Mori & other members of Kinnara Taiko Moderator: Rev. Jerry Hirano, CBE Director</p>	  <p>Rev. Kodani Johnny Mori</p>
<p>SATURDAY JULY 3 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>SHINSHU AND CHRISTIANITY Rev. David Quirke-Thornton Shin Buddhist Fellowship, United Kingdom</p>	  <p>Rev. Quirke-Thornton</p>
<p>SATURDAY JULY 24 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>CREATING INCLUSIVE SANGHAS: WORKING COMPASSIONATELY WITH OUR THOUGHTS & ASSUMPTIONS Mushim Patricia Ikeda East Bay Meditation Center Rev. Harry Bridge Buddhist Church of Oakland</p>	  <p>Mushim Ikeda Rev. Bridge</p>
<p>SATURDAY AUGUST 7 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>THE ESSENCE OF THE THREE PURE LAND SUTRAS & HOW WE CHANT THEM Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara Berkeley Buddhist Temple Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple</p>	  <p>Rev. Kuwahara Rev. Kusunoki</p>
<p>SATURDAY AUGUST 21 *11 AM - 1 PM REGISTER ONLINE</p>	<p>RENNYO'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONGWANJI THOUGHT Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra Orange County Buddhist Church</p>	  <p>Rennyō Shōnin Rev. Wondra</p>

(3-25)

VISIT BCA WEBSITE FOR FLYER, FREE ONLINE REGISTRATION & DONATION LINK
BUDDHISTCHURCHESOFAMERICA.ORG EMAIL: CBE@BCAHQ.ORG TEL: 510.809.1460

July Food Drive Coming Soon!

For the second year in a row, the ongoing Corona Virus Pandemic has necessitated the cancelling of Makawao Hongwanji's wonderful annual Fourth of July Garage Sale. However, in lieu of our garage sale, we are happy to announce that our now popular, Bento Drive-Through will be held on July 10 of this year. In addition, our hard working plants sellers will be making available their popular seasonal plants for your purchase through our Face Book website @ Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Plant orders may be picked up at the same time as your Bento orders!

For Bento Orders, please see the **Pre-Paid Bento Order Form** on the last page. All orders must be pre-paid; the deadline is June 25, 2021. Orders may be placed by calling the office at 572-7229 (Mon – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.), or via our website at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MakawaoHongwanji/>

JULY 2021 PLANT SALE ONLINE ONLY

By: Sharon H.

The co-chairs of the July Garage Sale/Bazaar called a meeting in early April. The purpose was to decide what the event would look like during this time of the pandemic. Major discussion centered around the fact that Maui County regulations restrict large gatherings and MHBT will not hold in-person events not approved by the County, that predicting conditions two months into the future is not possible, that presently there are rising COVID-19 cases on Maui, and that the burden of responsibility should something occur falls heavily on Rev. Kerry and temple Council leaders.

Therefore, the popular 4th of July Plant Sale which has made thousands of dollars for MHBT will not occur as usual. However, Sharon and Calvin Higuchi will hold an exploratory virtual sale on the temple Facebook page. The type of plants on sale will be limited to groups of the same type because photos need to be taken and priced the same. Also, the procedures have to be set up and managed by limited staff.

The drive-through pick-up date will be the same as for the food: Saturday July 10, 2021. Please visit Makawao Hongwanji Facebook website to view the plants. If you would like to place an order, call our church office at 572-7229.

Plant donors, if you have multiple plants which have potential for online sales, please call Sharon & Calvin Higuchi at 572-9343. Photos need to be taken, prices determined and procedures are still being worked on. Thank you for your generosity and dedication throughout the years. Gardening has skyrocketed during the shut-down and the community has missed this event last held in 2019. Please continue to take care of your plants as we wait for Maui County to approve of large group gatherings. May you find peace and harmony in your garden as we battle climate change and continue to keep Maui green.

PACK 18 CUB SCOUTS

By Sean Higuchi

Pack 18 Lions and Wolves went to the Maui Farm for a tour. The Maui Farm is a non-profit that helps and houses women and families in need by providing housing and activities on the farm. We learned about composting, worm farms, growing cotton and many other vegetables, and using organic pesticides. The most fun was playing with the goats, pigs, bunnies, and other animals. The staff was so good with the scouts and made all activities fun and educational.

Lions Den: Benji, Kalena, Jaden, Mateo
Wolf Den: Tori, Sophia, Zoey



Gotan-E

Shinran Shonin's Birthday, May 21, 1174

From *Jodo Shinshu, A Guide*, Abridged Edition

(Hongwanji International Center Kyoto, 2006)

Sakyamuni Buddha taught that there are numerous paths to awakening, enlightenment, and liberation. Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, provides a path to that attainment for all people of the world. (Introduction)

Jodo Shinshu and Modern Life:

The Pure Land Teaching established by Shinran tells us that all are embraced by the power of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow. Entrusting in this vow enables all to live in the present with confidence and peace of mind and assures them that they will be born in the Pure Land where they will attain enlightenment.

The purpose of this teaching is to enable all to live their lives to the fullest, becoming aware of both potentials and limitations in this world. Through this teaching, all may be able to overcome difficulties, thus realizing true happiness within this lifetime. (pg. 16)

[Note: Abridged version of *Jodo Shinshu, a Guide* is available for purchase in our church office.]

***As for me, I simply accept
and entrust myself to what
my revered teacher told me,
“Just say the nembutsu and
be saved by Amida”; nothing
else is involved.***

—Tannisho, CWS*, Vol. I, p.662



Statue of Shinran Shonin stands in front of Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

Highlights of Temple Council Meeting on April 11, 2021

- 1. Treasurer's Report by Fred Wong:** Paycheck Protection Program Loan #1 has been forgiven and discussion of first quarter 2021 financial reports.
- 2. Minister's Report by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara:** Described work on the various Maui and statewide committees and projects. Taking leave April 25 – May 8, 2021, with coverage already arranged during his absence. In-person Summer Garage Sale and Bon dance are cancelled. Hatsubon families will have a choice of in-person or Zoom services, or a combination.
- 3. Insurance:** Clyde Hamai gave an update report on the group insurance renewals.
- 4. Landscaping:** Ray Nakagawa and Gail Hamai will report back to the Council when they have specific plans for maintenance simplification plan.
- 5. Bodhi Tree:** Floyd Nagoshi and Glenn Coryell will maintain the tree, doing trimming and shaping. Their proposal to place an inspirational and informational sign near the tree was approved.
- 6. Rental Units Loan Refinance:** Clyde Hamai reported on progress of refinancing the commercial loan and will provide more detail at a future meeting.
- 7. Fundraiser Food Drive Through in July:** Gail Hamai proposed having another prepaid drive through food sale in July, on a Saturday when there is no 4th of July parade. Plan is moving forward with Karen Ishizu and Bobbi Nakagawa also on the organizing committee.
- 8. Fundraiser Plant Sale in July:** Sharon and Calvin Higuchi proposed having a prepaid drive through plant sale with pick up on a Saturday in July when there is no 4th of July parade. Plan is moving forward.
- 9. Pickled Peaches:** Ray Nakagawa reported that processing has started with a small peach crop.
- 10. Baccalaureate:** Virtual event this year for 4 seniors.
- 11. BWA:** Diane Kosaka reported that planning is underway for April 23-24, 2022 statewide BWA conference to be held in-person at Wailuku Hongwanji.
- 12. Preschool:** Bobbi Nakagawa reported this year's graduation will be by video.



(Full Council Meeting Minutes and Minister's Report can be obtained from the Temple Office.)

MAY 2021 ACTIVITIES

The following are virtual services on Facebook and YouTube.

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 | First Sunday Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
Children's Dharma School |
| 16 | Sunday Family Dharma Service |
| 23 | Gotan-e <i>SHINRAN SHONIN BIRTHDAY SERVICE</i> |
| 30 | Sunday Family Dharma Service |

“MAY WE GATHER” A NATIONAL BUDDHIST MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR ASIAN AMERICAN ANCESTORS ON TUESDAY, MAY 4TH, 2021 at 1PM HAWAII TIME

May We Gather is the first national Buddhist memorial service in response to anti-Asian violence. This event is promoted by Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, Dr. Funie Hsu, and Ms. Chenxing Han and supported by many Buddhist partner temples, organizations, and individuals. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is also endorsing and supporting this event. The following is the press release for this event.

May We Gather: A National Buddhist Memorial Ceremony for Asian American Ancestors (www.maywegather.org) is the first national Buddhist memorial service in response to anti-Asian violence. The ceremony will be livestreamed from Higashi Honganji Temple in Los Angeles, which was vandalized earlier this year. The event will be freely broadcast online and will bring together Asian American Buddhists and their allies to heal in community together.

On May 4th, 2021, exactly seven weeks, or forty-nine days, will have passed since the Atlanta shootings claimed the lives of eight people, six of them women of Asian descent, including the 63-year-old Buddhist Yong Ae Yue. In many Buddhist traditions, forty-nine days after death marks an important transition for the bereaved. May We Gather will feature Buddhist chanting and reflections from forty-nine Asian American Buddhist leaders of South, Southeast, and East Asian descent in a communal ritual to honor people who have died from acts of anti-Asian violence in the United States.



The hourlong event will be held **on Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 at 4pm PDT (1pm Hawaii Time)**. We welcome Asian American Buddhist temples and organizations as well as allied communities and individuals of all backgrounds to participate in this ceremony by endorsing the gathering, sharing it widely, and watching the livestream on May 4th.

The livestream is free and registration is not required. Please visit the following page to participate in this service: <https://www.maywegather.org/livestream>

For more information, please visit the event website: <https://www.maywegather.org/>

Correction: Our apologies, in April’s newsletter, Xaden Nishimitsu’s name was misspelled.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BISHOP'S CORNER

February 2021



May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Reminiscing, one of my dearest memories from childhood is making lei every year in May. Growing up in Hawaii, making lei for Memorial Day is a common memory for many of us. Today, being able to participate in Memorial Day Ceremonies at Punchbowl reinforces this childhood memory.

Further, every May 1 (or possibly the weekend closest to May 1) is the day that many schools with festive celebrations continue to put on a May Day Program which honors the Indigenous culture of Hawaii and also recognizes the many and varied cultures and ethnic groups which comprise our beautiful Hawai'i Nei. My elementary school, Honaunau Elementary, had an elaborate May Day program with the traditional Hawaiian Royal Court, ethnic and cultural entertainment put on by each grade including the faculty and staff of the school, a huge country store which featured Kona's famous pickled mango or, as we called it, "Mango Pickle" and also many exhibits and contests including a lei contest. I remember enjoying looking at all the lei laid out on tables for display. Of course, everyone also wore a lei too. At May Day, I fondly remember the various performances put on by the different grades or classes. It was a beautiful display of the rich heritage of various cultures from around the world. Now that I think about it, it was a way that students would, first hand, learn about and experience other cultures. In this way, probably without realizing it (at the time), we learned, recognized and accepted the fact that there are many different people and cultures in this world. Also, having learned some of the songs, music and dances of other cultures they didn't seem so foreign. Upon reflection, May Day might play an important role in promoting cultural understanding. It wasn't just fun and games. It would lead to a recognition and acknowledgement of others and showed that we are all part of a very diverse global human family and on May Day in Hawaii, we all come together in mutual harmony.

As I think about it, we, the human race, could be likened to a lei. We, individuals could be likened to the petals of each flower. A flower could represent an entire culture, ethnic group, nation or even more. However, there is a part of the lei which is not easily seen that is also vital. The string or twine which passes through each flower connecting all the flowers and thus giving the lei its beautiful shape and form is also a very important part of the lei. The string represents the teaching/dharma of interdependence



Mary Foster Plumeria

Continues on Page 15



that we are all interconnected and interrelated. One flower does not make a lei. For a lei, we need each other (all the flowers) and only when we come together do we have a beautiful lei. Let us not forget to appreciate the gift of a lei, not only for its beauty, but also the attitude of respect with which it is being given and the feeling of deep gratitude with which it should be received.

To conclude, as I thought about the lei and the beautiful flowers which abound in Hawaii, the following Buddhist quotes came to mind. From "The Teaching of Buddha," "The fragrance of a flower does not float against the wind, but the honor of the virtuous goes even against the wind into the world." and the following excerpts taken from "The Collected Works of Shinran," from some hymns by Shinran Shonin extolling the beautiful flowers of Amida Buddha's Pure Land of Enlightenment, "Beams of light,...shine brilliantly from within each flower; There is no place they do not reach." "Buddha-bodies...emerge from each flower..." "...the Buddhas constantly teach and spread the excellent dharma. And lead beings into the Buddha's path."



Namo Amida Butsu and Thank you.

LIVING TREASURES OF HAWAI'I SPECIAL PROGRAM

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Living Treasures of Hawai'i program, established in 1976, has recognized over 200 individuals who have demonstrated excellence and high achievement in their field of endeavor and who have made significant contributions toward enriching our society.

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, in lieu of our traditional luncheon program recognizing new honorees, we produced a special one-hour program, "Life and Light: Wisdom of Hawai'i's Treasures" featuring interviews with five past honorees. The program will air **on May 27, 2021, at 7:00 pm (K5 and live stream on Facebook)**, and May 30, 2021, at 8:00 pm (KHNL).

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i™: Life and Light - Wisdom of Hawai'i's Treasures brings together the wise sayings and teachings from five Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ honorees: Robert Cazimero, Puanani Burgess, Lillian Yajima, Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani, and Nainoa Thompson. This inspirational television special highlights what makes the Living Treasures of Hawai'i™ program unique and shares the history of this prestigious honor that is part of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.



14TH BWA HAWAII STATE CONFERENCE
April 23 - 24, 2022
Wailuku Hongwanji Mission -- Wailuku, Maui
Building Healthy Sanghas -- Connecting with Others

Schedule

Friday, April 22, 2022
Informal dinner and talk story

Saturday, April 23, 2022
Opening
Continental Breakfast
Business Meeting
Keynote Speaker
Lunch
Craft/Sales Tables
Workshop Sessions
Dinner

Sunday, April 24, 2022
Continental Breakfast
Service
Keynote Speaker
Panel Discussion
Closing

Workshops and Speakers

Keynote Speaker, Saturday
Deidre Tegarden, Maui
"Connecting with Others"

Keynote Speaker, Sunday
Janet Umezu, California
"Diversity and Acceptance"

Workshop Sessions, Saturday:

- Digital Social Media
Reverend Kerry Kiyohara
- Hawaiian Women's Fashions
Agnes Terao-Guiala
- Role of Women in Buddhism
Reverend Yuika Hasebe
- Buddhist Vegan Cuisine
Ayako Lux Hashimoto
- Enhance Fitness Program
Marie White

Panel Discussion, Sunday
Diversity and Acceptance

Pop-Up Sales Tables

- Opportunities to spotlight talents of your members and to buy omiyage for friends back home!
- Pop-up sales location will be secured during non-sale times. No refrigeration will be available.
- Interested units should coordinate with their District President as space will be limited.
- District Presidents should email Colleen Suyama at csuyama001@gmail.com for details and reservations.

DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

Hotel Registration at Conference Rate, must use their form: **October 23, 2021**
Pop-Up Sales Tables: **November 5, 2021**
Conference Registration at \$150 per person: **January 7, 2022**

Makawao Buddhist Temple

Pre-Paid Food Order Form for Drive Through Pick Up

Saturday July 10, 2021

from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
1074 Makawao Ave., Makawao, HI

LAST NAME:			
FIRST NAME:	Item	Phone: Cost per Unit	Quantity Cost
	Chow Fun per Quart	\$8.00	
	Pork Teri Bento	\$8.00	
	Chicken Teri Bento	\$8.00	
	Cone Sushi, 5 pc	\$6.00	
	Spam Musubi	\$2.00	
	Sweet Potato Manju, 5 pc	\$5.00	
	Almond Cookies, 5 pc	\$5.00	
	Cornflake Cookies, 5 pc	\$5.00	
TOTAL COSTS			

Ordered by Phone Email Mail

email: makawaohongwanji@gmail.com
phone: (808) 572-7229

Please make checks payable to: Makawao Hongwanji Mission

Mail Payment to: P.O. Box 188, Makawao, HI 96768

Payment must be received by June 25, 2021

Mahalo!

Payment:

Order
Recv'd:

Makawao Buddhist Temple

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