



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

July 2021

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

Office Phone: (808) 572-7229

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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OBON



The origins of *Obon* can be traced to the *Ullambana Sutra*, which relates the story of Mahamaudgalyayana (Mogallana in Pali), the most gifted of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciples in the area of extraordinary sense perceptions. The story teaches the importance of hearing the Buddha's teaching and observing the precepts. In realizing the compassion of the Buddha, Mahamaudgalyayana was so overjoyed that he clapped his hands and danced about. This is said to have been beginning of the *Bon Odori* (traditional Japanese dances on *Obon* Day).

***Obon*, therefore, being an occasion for rejoicing in the awakening offered by the Buddha, is an opportunity to express gratitude not only to ancestors, but to all who have passed on. Therefore, it is often referred to as *Kangi-e*, "Gathering of Joy."**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Re-Opening the Temple

After more than 18 months of shut-down, lock-down, and restrictions, **we are going to re-open the Makawao Buddhist Temple to full in-person activity on August 1, 2021.** We look forward to welcoming the diverse and inclusive Sangha of Makawao Buddhist Temple: sustaining members, temple *kupuna* elders, parents and *keiki* children, friends, and the many communities that make the temple a thriving center of spiritual growth, lifelong learning, and compassionate service to the greater community.

I am profoundly grateful to the temple leadership, who faced the challenge of re-opening the temple to full activity, while protecting the health and well-being of all people who enter the temple gates, without discrimination or judgement. The challenge was especially difficult as guidance from CDC, State of Hawaii, and County of Maui seems to change constantly. Sound familiar? The Truth of Impermanence in action. *NamoAmidaButsu!*

Based on guidance from CDC, State of Hawaii, County of Maui, and in consultation with sustaining members, temple elders, officers, advisors, friends of the temple, and leadership of affiliated organizations, an amazingly diverse Sangha community that includes healthcare professionals, owners of essential businesses that operated under even stricter protocols, parents of children under 12 years old (who cannot receive the vaccine yet), children of kupuna parents who are high-risk, and Hongwanji Hawaii leadership and ministers, the newly revised protocols are simple and will be implemented in two phases based on Hawaii's vaccination rate. Each affiliated organization and communities will be asked to submit a plan of how they will implement the revised protocols based on their specific needs prior to use of temple facilities.

Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

COVID –19 Protocols, revised, effective: July 1, 2021

Phase I: State of Hawaii at 60% Vaccination (best guess: July)

- (a) Vaccinated: Masks On, Clean Hands, Distancing Optional
- (b) Not Vaccinated: Masks On, Clean Hands, Distancing Recommended
- (c) Dharma School (and all children under 12): Outdoors-only , Masks On, Clean Hands, Distancing Recommended
- (d) Livestream of Services: Always available for anyone who chooses to stay home, is not resident in Maui, or cannot attend in-person for any reason. Livestreams will include: Dharma Family Services, Funerals, Memorial Services, Buddhist Education Program, etc
 - ◆ *If everyone in attendance is vaccinated, then Masks Optional, Clean Hands, Distancing Optional.*
 - ◆ *If anyone in attendance is not vaccinated, then Masks On, Clean Hands, Distancing Recommended.*

Phase II: State of Hawaii at 70% Vaccination (best guess: by end of summer)

- (a) Vaccinated and Not Vaccinated: Clean Hands, Masks Optional, No Distancing
- (b) Dharma School (and all children under 12): To be determined
- (c) Livestream of Services always available

NOTE: This plan is subject to change at any time as the temple may need to change direction, reverse course, or move forward faster depending upon causes and conditions.

Are there risks?

Of course, there are risks. As Rennyō Shōnin teaches, being born human means "...while in the morning we may be radiant with health, by evening, we may be white ashes."

Is the plan perfect?

No, it is not. The plan was designed by ordinary human beings.

Can you guarantee my safety?

No, I cannot.

We are asking everyone for their understanding, support, and cooperation as we move toward full re-opening of the temple.

July is traditionally a very busy time for Makawao Buddhist Temple with marching in the Makawao Rodeo Parade, the world-famous Summer Garage Sale, and Makawao Hongwanji Bon Dance! As you know, we've cancelled all of these in-person events in consideration of the health and well-being of the greater community.

But you don't have to miss out on your favorite **Makawao Hongwanji Foods** and **Plant Sale** since the Pick-up Day for pre-orders is Saturday, **July 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The order deadline for food was June 25, 2021 and the order deadline for plants is July 2, 2021.

In-person Sunday Services will restart with **Bon Memorial Service in-person and livestream on Sunday, July 18, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. (HST)**. This service will be the test run for the new protocols for a Sunday service with in-person and livestream. There will be no refreshment served after this service.

Virtual Bon Dance: Makawao-style! LIVE FROM MAKAWAO on July 24, 2021. The livestream will feature a limited number of in-person dancers, guest bon dancers from around the world via video, a live performance by Zenshin Daiko, Keiki Fun with Barkley the Dog and Lucy the Lady Bug explaining the meaning of Obon!

General Temple Clean-up: Saturday, July 31, 2021: With everyone pitching in, we can make the temple shine!

August 1, 2021: Dharma Family Service (in-person and livestream)—Causes and conditions permitting, we'll be back to "normal" from August. *NamoAmidaButsu!*

We look forward to seeing everyone, in person, unmasked, very, very soon!

May your day be filled with Aloha!

Mahalo,

Rev. Kerry



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE LIGHT IS SHINING BRIGHTER THAN EVER

A couple of months ago I said to hang in there because we could start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Well, that light is now very bright as we get ready to open our temple again on August 1. We will follow the CDC guidance to keep everyone safe and healthy. Please read Reverend Kerry's message with our guidelines for opening.

In the mean time, as you know, our major event, the Annual 4th of July Bazaar and Garage Sale was once again cancelled. This was a major fund raiser for our temple. That did not stop our event planners. We will now conduct another Food Drive Thru Sale and also a Virtual Plant Sale on July 10. The food drive thru is headed once again by Karen Ishizu, Bobbi Nakagawa and Gail Hamai, who have been meeting for several months to undertake this food sale. I am told that we have orders for over 500 quarts of chow fun and almost 400 Pork Teriyaki and Chicken bentos. This is in addition to orders of manju, spam musubi, cone sushi and two kinds of cookies. Way to go gals! The plant sale is spearheaded by Sharon and Calvin Higuchi. I understand that many of their plants are sold out. Thank you to all the volunteers who are working together to make this event happen. It takes a lot of you to pull something like this off, and be successful. Our temple would not be able to survive without all of your support!

Look forward to seeing you all on August 1. May you be happy and well!

Namo Amida Butsu
Clyde



"I'm 103 years old and going on 104!," said Florence Sakae. "My Body is getting pretty old but my mind is still sharp!"

A familiar face visits the temple and nokotsudo.

June 23, 2021.

NAMOAMIDABUTSU

IN MEMORIAM

Makawao Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy to families that have recently lost a loved one:

Family of the **Late Mr. Melvin Takeo Hamamoto** (67) who passed away on May 20, 2021.

July & August 2021 Memorial Anniversaries

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

1st Year Memorial Service 2020

July 21 Jane Seki

1st Year Memorial service 2020

August 05 George Noritoshi Terada

3rd Year Memorial Service 2019

July 02 George Katsuichi Gohara

3rd Year Memorial Service 2019

August 15 Grace Mie Kijima

August 21 Janice Tomoyo Okamoto

August 27 Ann Ritsuko Burd

August 31 Hisae Joyce Kagehiro

7th Year Memorial Service 2015

July 13 Toshiko Stella Kawaharada

July 19 Sueno "Sue" Saito

7th Year Memorial Service 2015

August - None

13th Year Memorial Service 2009

July 09 Paul Kazuo Hiyakumoto

July 30 Asayo Otani

13th Year Memorial Service 2009

August 22 Kimiko Tamura

August 24 Fudeko Maeda

17th Year Memorial Service 2005

July 16 Roy Genpachiro Onikama

17th Year Memorial Service 2005

August 01 Otozo Nishida

25th Year Memorial Service 1997

July 30 Hude Tsukuda

25th Year Memorial Service 1997

August 13 Riku Tanaka

33rd Year Memorial Service 1989

July - None

33rd Year Memorial Service 1989

August - None

50th Year Memorial Service 1972

July 10 Iemon Sugimoto

50th Year Memorial Service 1972

August - None

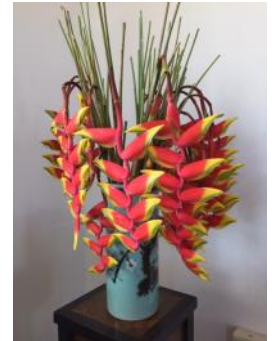


Donations - Makawao Hongwanji Mission can operate only because of the generous donations from many, many people. All donations are humbly received with sincere gratitude and appreciation. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR DONATION PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER, OR IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR DONATION LISTED AS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

Contributions May 25, 2021 to June 24, 2021

DONATION:

Christine Kubo
Marilyn Morikawa
Michael Nishida
Jane Loeffler
Christy Vail
Angela Takemoto
Aiko Makimoto
Mae Balmores



In memory of Tetsuji Tanimoto (3rd year memorial) – Akiko and Mark Tanimoto
In memory of Grace and Yoshio Kijima – Evelyn Hamai
In memory of Kazuo and Misao Tamura – Kenneth and Joann Tamura
In memory of Alynette Nagamine – Nathan Nagamine
In memory of Norman Hamasaki – Grace Hamasaki and family
Keiki Dharma Messages – Jean Heselden
Livestream Service donation – Calvin and Sharon Higuchi
Daikon for sanbaizuke – Henry Koja

OFUSE:

7th year memorial service for Sadamu and Yoshie Okuni – Family of Sadamu and Yoshie Okuni
Funeral service for Melvin Takeo Hamamoto – Family of Melvin Takeo Hamamoto
Funeral service for George Terada – Family of George Terada
In memory of Melvin Hamamoto – Les and Debbie Yokote

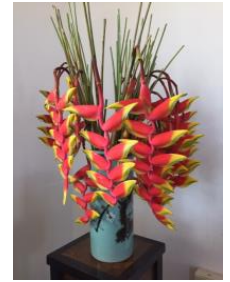
NEWSLETTER:

Grace Hamasaki
Sharlene Cummings

NOKOTSUDO:

Charlene and Leslie Shibuya
Edward H. Tengan
Kelvin and Lynn Nakamura
Reginald Sato
In memory of Itsuo and Ruth Magarifuji – Peter and Gail Nakamae
In memory of Hisao Sato, Sueko Sato, and Clayton Sato – Reginald and Eileen Sato
In memory of Yoshio Kijima – Family of Yoshio Kijima
In memory of Florence Fuyuko Taniguchi, Robert Heikichi Taniguchi,
and Ted Tsuneo Taniguchi – Lorine and Richard DeCoite
In memory of Dorothy Ayako Tengan – Edward H. Tengan
In memory of George Terada, Donald Terada, and Mitsutoshi Terada – Pearl Rockett
In memory of Ralph Nishida – Cynthia Nishimoto Nishida
In memory of Yukio Otani and Glenn Otani – Family of Yukio Otani and Glenn Otani
In memory of Yoneko Ibara and Kazuo Ibara – Roland and Jacelyn Ibara
In memory of Hiroshi Horiuchi and Satsuki Horiuchi – Rachael Guay
In memory of George Terada – Gail Terada

Continued From Page 6, Donations



In memory of Michael Suda and Miyoko Suda – Mavis Suda
In memory of Robert T. Migita and Jean H. Migita – Migita family
In memory of Lloyd Ito – Cummings Ohana
In memory of Takashi Tokuoka – Chiyoko Tokuoka
In memory of Agnes Ariyoshi and Marsha Tanaka – Lois, Cole, Max,
Lyssa Nishikawa
In memory of Wataru and Taeko Tashiro, Lester and Clara Hamai, Kumio Matsui,
and Gerri Cantwell – Katherine and Glenn Hamai

**JAM IS AVAILABLE AT THE DRIVE THROUGH,
JULY 10, 2021**

A limited supply of peach and guava jam will be available for purchase at our drive through on July 10. Jams are \$6 per 8 oz. Please look for our display table. Payments can be made on the day of purchase. Preorder is also available, call the office at 572- 7229 during office hours, 8:30 am -1:30 pm.



SUMMER GENERAL CLEAN UP

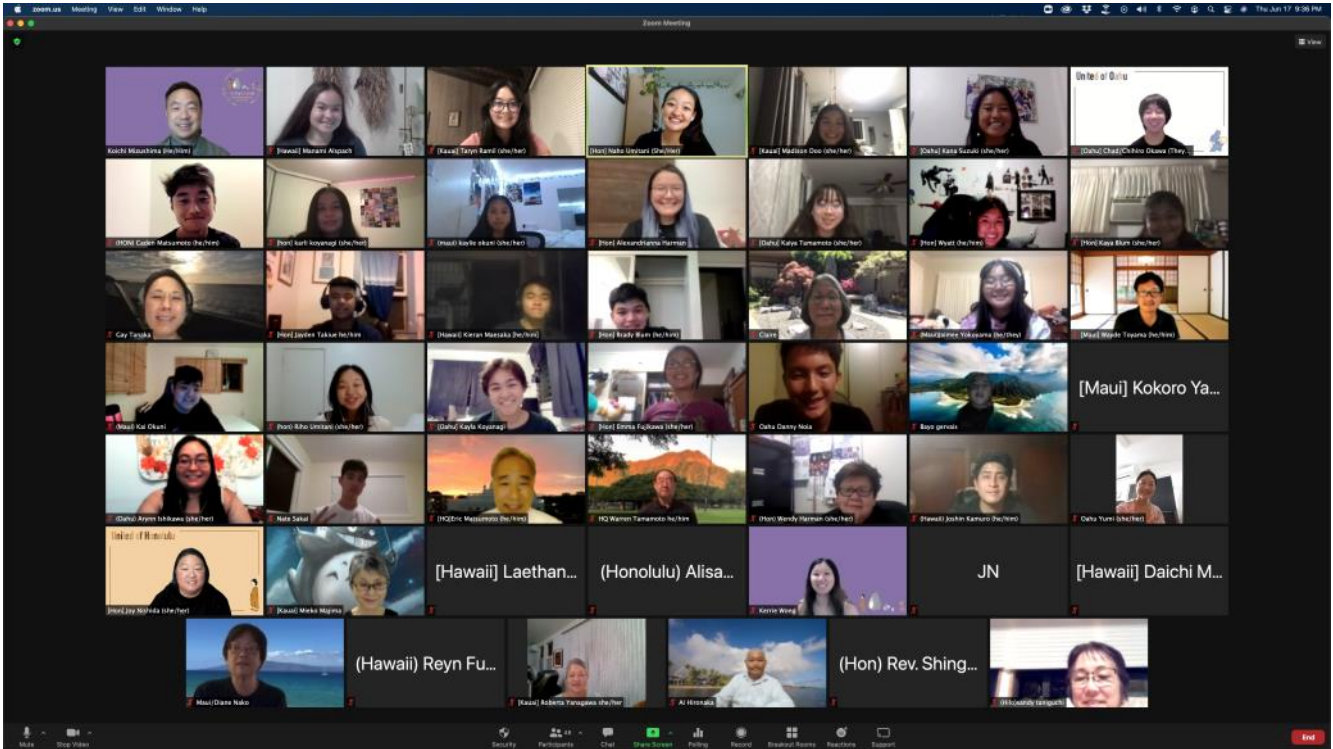
Saturday, July 31, 2021, is our Summer General Clean Up! We will begin at 8:00 a.m. until pau. Brunch will be served. Come out to see friends, work together to make ready for our first in-person Sunday Service in over a year. See you there!



Everything in the world is the result of a concurrence of causes and conditions, and everything disappears as these causes and conditions change and pass away.

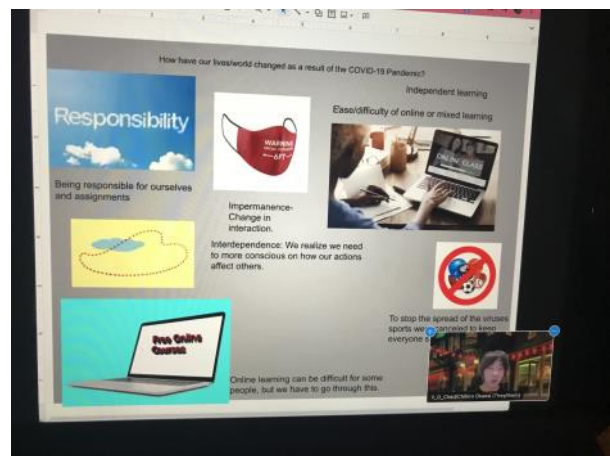
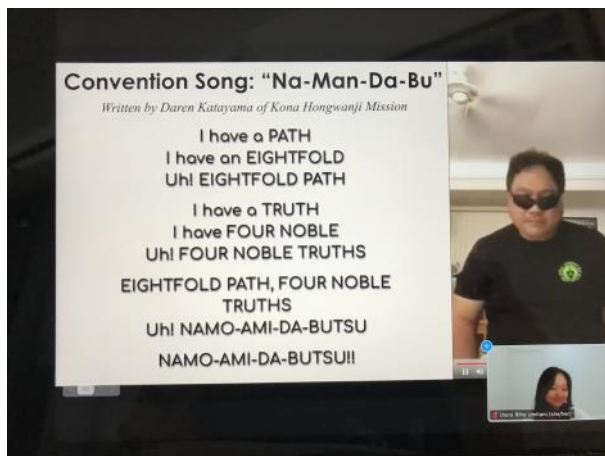
—Basic tenet of Buddhism
Jodo Shinshu—A Guide, Page 13

MAUI Jr. YBA Jr. YBA STATE CONVENTION



The highlight of this summer was the 64th Jr. YBA State Convention on June 17-19, 2021, hosted by United of Honolulu. “My Neighbor Amida” was the theme. Jr. YBA’ers and advisors from across the State of Hawaii participated virtually in workshops, games, as well as conducting business during the annual General Assembly. This year’s workshop presenters were Mr. Koichi Mizushima and Dr. Brent Tamamoto who were creative in sharing thought provoking workshops. Both focused on interdependence, thinking “out of the box” and learning how to be flexible and compassionate, especially during this past year. Topics included were on the COVID pandemic and how it affected our lives. It was a great way for the Jr. YBA’ers to reflect and share their thoughts on how our Jodo Shinshu teachings have guided all of us on a deep personal or professional level. Pictured are: Convention song “Na Man Da Bu” presented by Daren Katayama of Kona Hongwanji Mission and Jr. YBA’ers group presentation on the topic: “How have our lives changed during COVID 19.” Finally, the group photos show the convention participants.

Jaimee Yokoyama was re-elected as Federation Treasurer, and Outstanding Jr YBA’ers from the Maui United were Kai Okuni, Kokoro Yamazaki and Jaimee Yokoyama. We look forward to our future gatherings and meetings. Congratulations to United of Honolulu for a successful 64th Jr. YBA State Convention.



TROOP 18 SCOUTS AND PACK 18 SCOUTS

Scouts placing flags at Makawao Veteran's Cemetery as well as St Joseph's Cemetery on Memorial Day. Pictured below are Troop and Pack 18 Scouts doing good deeds.



Brevan Nishimitsu (left) and Brayden Kitagawa



Tori Higuchi, Benjamin Higuchi, Sierra Kosaka, Lindsey Kosaka, Emily De Jesus



Elias De Jesus and Wesley Kosaka

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

JULY 2021 ACTIVITIES

The following are virtual services on Facebook and YouTube.

- 4 First Sunday Dharma Service**
- Monthly Memorial Service**
- Children's Dharma School**
- 10 Food Drive –Through & Plants Pickup**
- 11 Sunday Dharma Service**
- 18 Makawao Hongwanji Bon Memorial Service**
- 23-26 Chochin Memorial Lanterns Display**
- 24 Bon Dance (Virtual)**
- Hatsubon Service**
- 25 Day of Rest After Bon**
- 31 GENERAL CLEAN UP**



KAI OKUNI, Class of 2021

PARENTS: Sherri and Robert Okuni

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Recreational Basketball, Interact Club, AVID Club, also Jr. YBA.

FUTURE PLANS: Attend UH Manoa in the Fall, possibly study Pre Med.

REFLECTION:

Graduating in the midst of a pandemic. A thought that I never imagined that I would be thinking to myself. Although this wasn't the graduation that I imagined I would be having, it certainly is one that will be remembered for years to come, whether it is talked about at my high school reunion 10 years from now, or if the class of 2021 is known as the "Pandemic Graduates".

Looking back on high school, there were definitely a lot of ups and downs. Whether it was hanging out with my friends at the beach, or not doing well on a test I didn't study for, I will cherish the memories that my friends and I have created throughout these past 4 years.

All of the decisions that I have made have allowed me to be here today, and graduate alongside my fellow classmates and soon to be alumni. A decision that I remember to be very meaningful to me was, when I picked up the Jr.YBA application form, and met many new people that I would later call close friends and family. When I first joined Jr.YBA, I felt very at ease with everyone being very friendly, and accepting of any and every person who wanted to join.

Joining YBA has broadened my view of not only Buddhism, but also allowed me to realize the opportunities that are opened up for me because of groups like the Jr.YBA. Sharing bonding moments in the YBA over the past few years has made me feel really grateful for our advisors who allow us these opportunities. They include Wayde Toyama, Diane Nako, Reverend Ai Hironaka, and Reverend Shinkai Murakami, as well as the HHMH. Whether it was our annual chow fun fundraiser at the Maui County Fair, or being able to meet the Gomonshu in Japan, I enjoyed every moment I spent with the group.

Church, where do I begin? When I first joined Makawao Hongwanji in 2015, I was nervous, and didn't know anybody, and felt out of place. After about 15 minutes of my first Sunday service, I was no longer nervous. Being greeted by many of the regulars, even though they didn't know me, or whether it was when people came up to talk to me, just to make me feel more comfortable. Although I slept through service my first year at church, I began to get interested in Buddhism, and wanted to learn more. So one day, I knocked on the Reverend's door and asked, "Why do we follow this path of enlightenment?" and from there, I looked forward to coming to church and seeing all of my new friends and fellow Sangha members.

In particular, I made a new close friend whose name is Glenn Coryell. I had noticed that he played the guitar and was also into playing and writing music. One day, I was asked to play the ukulele for a Sunday song, and he was blown away at my playing, and so we shared a connection that I thought I would normally not have made. From the years that followed, we would share bonding moments, whether it was him teaching me how to play the guitar, or how to ring the Kansho. As time continued to pass, we spent a lot of time learning about the Dharma, and about ourselves and the path that we are all meant to take.

Many memories have been made over the past few years that I wouldn't trade for anything else. Whether it was our trip to Kauai, our Obon, or even our peach picking, there were so many great events that I have been able to be a part of, since joining Makawao Hongwanji. Meeting many new influences in my life, which include Reverend Kerry and Reverend Masuda who have taught me to be myself, and to always believe in the Dharma teachings.

And finally, some personal thoughts for the future. I don't know what the future holds, nor do I know what I want to do for the rest of my life, but what I do know is that, with the guidance of everyone that has been a part of my life, I know that I will be ok, and succeed in whatever endeavors that I choose to partake in. As I create a new chapter of my life at UH Manoa, I hope to gain new friends, memories, and mentors along the way, and I will never forget those who have helped me get to this point, so with that thought, thank you for being a part of my life, and I hope to see, or talk to you again soon.

In Gassho,
Kai Okuni

SHAYDEN AOYAGI, Class of 2021

My parents are Mami and Junichi Aoyagi. I participated in Soccer, Band and was part of AVID. I plan to attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo and pursue a PharmD.



XADEN NISHIMITSU, Class of 2021

Parents: Candis and Kyle Nishimitsu

Interests: Music, Drama, Art

Future Plans: Attend college and major in Jazz Studies

Reflection:

Overall, I'm really glad I got to be a part of the Scouting Program. Without it, I would have never become the person I am today. Both the skills and memories I've gained through scouts have become invaluable to me, as well as the many friends and mentors I've had the pleasure of meeting. To the Scouts of Troop 18 past, present, and future, thank you. And to those who still represent Troop 18, good luck, you're going to do great things.

"To the Scouts of Troop 18 past, present, and future, thank you."

BRYSON UCHIMA, Class of 2021



"I will always remember all the skills that I have acquired over the years through scouting."

Parents: Lynne and Cory Uchima

Extracurricular:

- **Boy Scout**
- **King Kekaulike Boys Volleyball / Basketball**
- **Playing piano**
- **Going Beach (volleyball/cruise)**
- **Video games**

Future Plans:

I am planning on going to Chapman University in Orange, California this August. I have always been interested in sports and how the body works, so I am going to be studying Health Science. Eventually, I plan to enroll in a post-grad program where I will get my Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Not sure where I want to live in the future but I know I'll be happy to help others wherever I end up.

Reflection:

Reflecting on my whole scouting career, I can't help but just smile, remembering all the things my Troop and I have been through. At one point in time, I remember not enjoying scouting where I didn't enjoy going to meetings and even didn't look forward to camps or hikes. But now I would love the chance to go back in time and take advantage and appreciate the experiences that I got from these activities. The long nights at Outpost where our tents would get flooded or the long hikes in Olowalu, all of them felt terrible at the time but those ended up being the most memorable and fun experiences looking back.

Without scouting, I would not be the person that I am today. I'm forever grateful that my parents "threw" me into Cub Scouts way back in the 1st Grade and that I pushed through and stuck with Boy Scouts until the very end. Through scouting, I have learned many different skills that I can apply to the real world. Working together, helping others, leading, and being a good citizen are just a few things that I have learned through scouting and will never forget. After 11 long years of being a Cub Scout and Boy Scout, I'm kind of sad to see my journey coming to an end. But with this, I am also excited for what the future holds for me. I will always remember all the skills that I have acquired over the years through scouting. Once a Scout, always a Scout.

**MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
TEMPLE COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 13, 2021**



1. **Minister's Report by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara:** focused on restarting temple activities in phases, with target of resuming in-person Sunday Services on August 1, 2021. General Clean Up Day was scheduled for July 31, 2021, to be coordinated by Karen Ishizu, Floyd Nagoshi, and Ray Nakagawa. Live-streaming of Sunday Services will continue with help from named volunteers.
2. **Virtual Bon Mairi Service:** planned for July 18, 2021, to commemorate all departed loved ones, not limited to Hatsubon families. Chochin display organized by Calvin Higuchi and origami crane display organized by Jean Heselden.
3. **Virtual Bon Dance:** planned for July 24, 2021, as a private event, along with Zenshin Daiko performance. Sharon Nagoshi and Rev. Kerry are organizing the event.
4. **Virtual Lay Convention:** to be held on September 10-11, 2021. Our 2 voting delegates will be Bobbi Nakagawa and Clyde Hamai. We can have any number of observers and guests. Fee is \$10 per person.
5. **Hurricane Insurance Quote for 1 Year of Coverage for Selected Buildings:** was discussed but the price tag is out of reach.
6. **Buddhist Education:** discussion of plans for in-person Dharma School for children under age 12 who cannot be vaccinated, with precautions to safeguard their health. Maui's Nembutsu Seminar is scheduled for November and hopefully the mainland speaker will attend in -person.
7. **Activities for July:** Bobbi Nakagawa distributed a schedule for discussion. General Clean Up Day on 7/31/2021, starting at 8:00 a.m., was added to the list.
8. **Repair and Maintenance:** report received from Calvin Higuchi. Discussion of what to do about kitchen alarm that keeps going off unnecessarily. Hondo globe lights may be switched to LED bulbs.
9. **Membership:** report received from Sharon Higuchi. Discussion of financial support for temple.
10. **Funeral/Columbarium:** report received from Sharon Higuchi.
11. **Properties:** report received from Gail Hamai and discussion of handling the Pauwela Cemetery.
12. **HHMH Board of Directors:** report received from Sharon Higuchi.
13. **Obon Chochin Project:** report received from Calvin Higuchi. We are close to selling out the 200 chochin.
14. **Plant Sale for July 10th Pick Up:** report received from Calvin Higuchi. Printed advertising flyer will be sent out using the nonprofit mailing permit. An email blast will be sent using MailChimp.
15. **Food Orders for July 10th Pick Up:** report by Jean Heselden on sales figures as of 6/9/2021. New email blast for online ordering will be sent out using MailChimp.
16. **Bodhi Tree Project:** report from Floyd Nagoshi.

(Full Text of Council Meeting Minutes and Reports can be obtained from the Temple Office.)

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

BISHOP'S CORNER

JULY 2021

Like a good neighbor, Amida is here!

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



In June, the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Associations will be having their Virtual 64th Jr. YBA State Convention. The theme is *"My Neighbor Amida"* based on the movie *"My Neighbor Totoro."* It reminded me of some Buddhist quotes about friends and friendship *"An insincere friend is to be feared more than a wild animal. A wild animal may cause you physical harm, but an insincere friend can harm your mind."* *"It is a person's own mind, not an external enemy or foe, that lures one into unwholesome ways."* *"To conquer oneself is a greater victory than to conquer thousands in a battle."* and *"The one who protects one's mind from greed, anger and ignorance, is the one who enjoys real and lasting peace."*

Further, the Dharma encourages: *"speak...with kindness, work for their benefit, always be thoughtful, and treat them with honesty."* *"...make (the) effort to prevent...friends from falling into wrong ways, protect their property...listen to their concerns when they have problems, lend them a helping hand in times of trouble, and support their family when necessary. Thus, the way of friends...will be one of peace without sorrow."* *"A true friend, the one with whom a person may safely associate, will always stick closely to the right way, will worry...about one's friend's welfare, will console the friend in misfortune, will offer... a helping hand, ...will keep...secrets, and will always give...good advice. It is very difficult to find a friend like this, and, therefore, one should try very hard to be a friend like this. As the sun warms the fruitful Earth, so a good friend shines in society because of one's good deeds."*

Shinran Shonin, when he deeply reflected on himself though, lamented about himself *"Lacking even small love and small compassion, I cannot hope to benefit sentient beings."* But at the same time he also gratefully remarked, *"Were it not for the ship of Amida's Vow, How could I cross the ocean of painful existence?"* Shinran Shonin heard the Compassionate Call of Amida Buddha, who says *"Come at once single-heartedly with right mind. I will protect you. Do not fear that you may fall into the calamities of water (greed) or fire (anger)."* This message of Amida Buddha was so compelling that he (Shinran Shonin) had no doubt about its authenticity and experienced great joy in knowing that Amida Buddha accepted him just as he was, full of imperfections, unconditionally promising him the Great Enlightenment!

To me, out of profound appreciation for the Buddha's benevolence and a deep lament about his shameful self, Shinran Shonin, together with reciting the Nembutsu of gratitude, embraced the aspiration to reject the evil of this world. In Letter 19, he shares about a person of nembutsu *"Signs of long years of saying the nembutsu and aspiring for birth can be seen in the change of heart that had been bad and in the deep warmth for friends and fellow-practicers; this is the sign of rejecting the world."*

Continues on Page 15

Continued From Page 14, Bishop's Corner

For most of his life, Shinran Shonin did not live in a secluded monastery away from people, but rather like a good neighbor lived together with people and shared with them the wisdom and compassion including the joy of Namo Amida Butsu. We learn from him that Amida Buddha is not a Buddha far away in some distant Pure Land relevant only after we die, but that Amida Buddha as Namo Amida Butsu (or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me to entrust) is right here, right now. Amida Buddha like a good neighbor is always inviting everyone to come to his house of enlightenment. Amida Buddha, now and forever, like a good neighbor promises to always be with us! When we look at the life of Shinran Shonin and Lady Eshinni, I see them responding in gratitude to the Buddha as they guided and cared for people.

Finally, today, let me share our Hawaii version of Gomonsu Kojun Otani's "Our Pledge."

*Reaching out to others, I will share a smile and gentle words.
Just like the Buddha, who always calls out with Aloha.*

*Breaking away from my greed, anger and ignorance,
I will try to live in peace and harmony.
Just like the Buddha, who shares tranquility and kindness with all.*

*Moving forward from self-centeredness,
I will share a life of joy and sorrow with others.
Just like the Buddha, whose caring heart always embraces us.*

*Realizing that I live because of others,
I will strive to live life to the fullest with an attitude of gratitude.
Just like the Buddha, who promises to embrace us all.*



COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES ON HHMH WEBSITE

The Office of the Bishop has issued a series of memos (1-16) to provide directives and recommendations regarding temple activities and procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are available in the following page of our Hawaii Kyodan Website. The latest memo was issued on June 13, 2021 because of the anticipated lifting of inter-island travel restrictions, in-person services, and other topics.

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2020/03/13/covid19/>

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>	 Rev. Umezu	
<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>	 Rev. Kodani	 Johnny Mori
<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>	 Rev. Quirke-Thornton	
<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>	 Mushim Ikeda	 Rev. Bridge
<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>	 Rev. Kuwahara	 Rev. Kusunoki
<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>	 Rennyō Shōnin	 Rev. Wondra

(3-25)

VISIT BCA WEBSITE FOR FLYER, FREE ONLINE REGISTRATION & DONATION LINK
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