



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

January 2022

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Resident Minister: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

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

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SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

December 31, 2021, New Year Eve's Service 6:00 p.m.

Traditional Japanese "Toshi-Koshi" Soba Noodles will be Served.

Saturday, January 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE
Traditional Japanese O-Zoni Soup will be served.

Sunday, January 2, 2022
NO SERVICE

Sunday, January 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
HOONKO
SHINRAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, January 16, 2022, 9:00 a.m
DHARMA FAMILY LAY SERVICE
Guest Speaker: Claude Moreau

Sunday, January 23, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE

BEST WISHES FOR YEAR 2022!!!

New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.



Over these past couple of years, we have had to adjust our lives in accordance with the scale of the spread of COVID-19. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

This infectious disease has not only greatly affected the life of each one of us, but also revealed many issues that had been contained in our society. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear of the fact that we cannot see the truth because we are too attached to our own thought. Therefore, it is only natural that conflicts and divisions come about in a society in which those who, like us, fundamentally self-centered beings, act in accordance based on one's own thought.

In the following *wasan* poem, Shinran Shonin deeply reflected on himself and described what we humans are like,

Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land way,

It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.

This self is false and insincere;

I completely lack a pure mind. (*Hymns of the Dharma-ages*)

As the *wasan* shows, we are basically incapable of accepting the reality of this world, such as, dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. And because of this we constantly suffer. Only through being aware of and appreciating Amida Buddha's compassionate and salvific working, are we enabled to accept our true self. Shinran Shonin clarified that such ignorance is the very reason why Amida Buddha's salvific working has reached every one of us. Keeping in mind that we are always embraced in Amida's compassionate Light, let us live each day to the fullest, even though we have yet to see the end of the tunnel.

I feel truly assured hearing that many of you have been making efforts to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching within the greater society through various and innovative ways despite the current situation. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2022

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

2022 Bishop's New Year Message

The New Year has always been a time of hope, renewal and new beginnings. I am hopeful that the year 2022 will be brighter and happier for you and your Ohana of family and friends, and all of us! Needless to say, the Pandemic has adversely affected all of our lives in various ways including the feeling of isolation and disconnect. However, let us not despair. Please always fully understand that Amida Buddha as Namo Amida Butsu is always with us embracing us as Great Compassion. There is a Jodo Shinshu expression “Ki-Hou-Ittai no Namo Amida Butsu” or “Namo Amida Butsu of the oneness of Amida Buddha and those to be saved.” For this reason, we able to be born in the Pure Land to attain Enlightenment and, even in the here and now, we are never truly all alone!



Further, there is another dynamic in which we can appreciate the truth that we are always supported by others and thus never alone. I recall the life of an Oahu Hongwanji member who was always so grateful for the food she ate every day. She couldn't help, but place her hands together in gassho/anjali to express her appreciation and gratitude to the plants and animals for their gift of life and all others who played a role in her receiving the precious gift of the meals she ate each day. She was aware of the so many other lives which surrounded and supported her. She had to try to live her life as best she could out of appreciation and gratitude.

However, on the plane of human social interaction, yes, COVID has severely impacted our ability to interact with each other even among family members and as a Sangha at temple. I know many of you miss so dearly being able to come to the temple, the physical symbolic home of Amida Buddha. As the situation with the Pandemic slowly improves, please consider gathering, once again, at your temple. We must still be cautious especially with the discovery of the Omicron Variant, but when the time is right, please join us at the temple both current members and newcomers. Let us reconnect and connect with each other! The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including your temple needs you! Please remember, there are three treasures not only two.

As we begin a new year, this would be the opportune time for us to reconnect with family and friends. Depending on the situation with the Pandemic, it might not be physically just yet, but there are other ways to connect such as writing down (or video recording) your most precious thoughts, wishes and aspirations as in a journal or as letters as did Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni, and even Shinran Shonin. What is that which is most precious to you? What are the best memories you have? Why is the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple so important to you? Would it make you happy if your family becomes part of the Hongwanji Sangha?

Let us make manifest our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme & Slogan for 2022 which is “Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others.” Of course, this “Connecting with Others” is not limited to our close circle of family and friends, but with others around the world too. This year's Hawaii Kyodan Calendar highlights His Eminence Kojun Ohtani's “Our Pledge” which more concretely shares why and how we may connect with others. In this New Year, let me encourage you to begin reciting Gomonshu-sama's “Our Pledge” on a daily basis.

To conclude, please join me to recite Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name Which I Call (in gratitude) in response to Namo Amida Butsu or The Buddha's Name That Calls Me (to entrust). Namo Amida Butsu. Thank you and Happy New Year from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Office of the Bishop.

In gassho/anjali,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

President's New Year's Message

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2022. Last year, as I wrote my message, we had reason to hope that the year 2021 would be one in which we would have control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, millions of people in our country (and more around the world) are still unvaccinated and therefore susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection. Also, the natural world is unpredictable - with new variants of the coronavirus appearing in different areas of the world. We do not know what effect the new variants will have on the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the vaccines have proven to be very effective at preventing or reducing the chance of developing severe COVID-19 disease. They are also proven to be very safe in all of the trials and young children starting at the age of 5 can now be safely vaccinated. The COVID-19 situation is much better than a year ago at this time and it is very likely that it will continue to get better.

Our theme and slogan for 2022, **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others”** is particularly appropriate for 2022. Buddhism teaches that everything is interconnected. No one is completely independent of other people or the environment surrounding them. We are connected with and dependent on everything around us, for example the the air that we breathe. As we carefully re-open our temples, let's all make an extra effort to connect with our Sangha, especially those we have not seen for a year or two.



The past two years have been difficult for all of our temples. At least one temple (Papaalooa Hongwanji) will close its temple doors permanently in 2022 and consolidate with Honohina Hongwanji. The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only factor in Papaalooa Hongwanji's closure, but it certainly hastened the process. Buddhism teaches us that all things are impermanent, everything changes, and that “the root of suffering is attachment”. However, Shinran reminded us that we are all “bonbu” - foolish beings. We still have attachments. So it is still difficult for us to have many fond memories of a place and time in our past and not feel sadness that it will not be there the next time we visit. We can still be grateful that Papaalooa Hongwanji shared Buddhist values with the Hamakua community for over 100 years and during that time planted the seeds of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in many people, including this writer. Namo Amida Butsu.

As I reflect on our theme, **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others”**, I start with being grateful that Amida Buddha, through his Teachings, is with me and wants me to be happy. I am grateful that I was introduced to Buddhism by the good fortune of being born to a wonderful family in a little plantation town on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Grateful that Papaalooa Hongwanji was built by the issei and nisei in spite of severe financial hardship. Grateful that Aiea Hongwanji was there for us when Claire and I were looking for a temple for our family. Grateful that I have made a connection with so many of you through our involvement in the Hawaii Sangha. Let's continue to nurture these connections.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto MD

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Minister's Message

“BE GOOD...BUT NOT TOO MUCH!”

In reflection, 2021 was yet another year when my “new year resolutions” pretty much flew out the window after the first day of the year!

Exercise daily. (Yeah, right.)

Lose weight. (I did but “stress” is not the healthiest way to do it)

Be nicer to people. (My apologies to everyone who encountered Mr. Grumpy last year)



Yet another set of “aspirations” for the new year that I promptly ignore and *pretend* I’ll do better next year. And that is the core of the human experience, as taught by Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the Hongwanji tradition—our Ego-Self all too easily convinces our all-too-human brain we’ll “do better next year”...even though as Buddhists we know, without doubt, the “Winds of Impermanence” blow in their own time, not at our convenience.

And that’s the message Barkley the Dog is always preaching to the “kids” during Children’s Dharma Story Time—“Be good! But not too much!”

What does it mean to be “too good”? Is that even possible?

(Remembering that Barkley is “the rascal dog”) I think Barkley is simply encouraging the “kids” to be who they are, which is fundamentally “good”, just as they are, which means sometimes ME (my Ego) takes over, and—reality-as-it-is—we are not as good as we would like to think we are...or, worse, we put on airs of being “good”, which, reality-as-it-is, we are not.



Being “too good”—the perfection of the imperfect self— is not possible because we are born human. In Shinran *Shōnin*’s words:

*“I am such that I do not know right and wrong
And cannot distinguish false and true;
I lack even small love and small compassion,
And yet, for fame and profit, enjoy teaching others.”*

—Shinran *Shōnin*, Hymns of the Dharma Ages

Shinran *Shōnin* wrote these words in his late 80s, well after he had completed his magnum opus, the Kyogoshinsho, the doctrine of the true teachings (*shinshū*) of the Pure Land way (*jōdo*), which today we know as Jodo Shinshu.

Shinran’s degree of self-awareness and his brutal honesty in sharing publicly this awareness of self is matched only by his conviction—the absence of any doubt—that Amida’s Great Love and Great Compassion have embraced him, just as he is—utterly human, flawed, self-centered—and assured his Birth in the Pure Land, thus becoming Buddha.

*Lacking even small love and small compassion,
I cannot hope to benefit sentient beings.
Were it not for the ship of Amida’s Vow,
How could I cross the ocean of painful existence?*

—Shinran *Shōnin*, Hymns of the Dharma Ages

Continued From Page 5, Minister's Message

This is the paradox of the Faith of Shinjin!

Knowing how utterly human we are, we are brought to the realization that Amida's Great Love and Great Compassion has embraced us in this unrepeatable life because we are utterly human, with human weaknesses and limitations, driven by our Ego-Self's insatiable craving for "more, more, more!"

Thus we are brought to truly "hear" NamoAmidaButsu! as the Calling Voice of Amida, "Take refuge in Amida's Great Love and Great Compassion!" in each moment of every day of this unrepeatable life.

And, thus, we are brought to truly appreciate the gift of this moment on this day of our unrepeatable lives, and we say NamoAmidaButsu! in joy and gratitude.

Mimy and I are grateful for your love and support in 2021 and we wish each day of the new year be filled with aloha for you and your 'ohana!

NamoAmidaButsu!

Mahalo,
Rev. Kerry



The heart set upon tomorrow,
how like cherry blossoms
blown away at night in a sudden storm

明日ありと

A Buddhist Aspiration

Let us be grateful for this moment together, united by our aspiration to see the world as-it-is, not as-we-would-like-it-to-be, so that we may alleviate suffering for all beings.

Let us be wise so that we can see both sides of conflict with clarity, and not insist that we alone are right.

Let us be compassionate so that we can help all people without discrimination or judgement.

Let us be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than ourselves.

Let us allow the Aloha in our hearts to manifest as Mahalo for the great 'Ohana of Life and the blessings of the 'Aina.

In the Hongwanji tradition, we express our gratitude for All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion in this unrepeatabe life by placing our palms together, bowing our heads, and saying *Namo Amida Butsu*.



DECEMBER ENDED A CHALLENGING YEAR

What a way to end 2021! For us in Upcountry Maui, wasn't December an extremely challenging month? Just a couple months before that, many of us who live in upcountry Maui were just ending over six months of a mandatory 10% water-use cutback due to an ongoing drought. We were even threatened with a \$500 fine. We prayed for rain. But as the saying goes, "Be careful what you wish for"... in December, because of the storms, there was too much rain! Yet for some of us, that brought us no water! Many of us upcountry Maui residents lost both electricity and water. And when we finally got our water back four days later, (we enjoyed it for less than a week), we were advised not to consume the water due to possible E. coli in our repaired water system. Some residents still have to boil their water. I can't explain what is causing these extreme changes in weather, (I'm no scientist), but if these changes in nature going on around us are caused by us, how can we change?



As we enter a new year, I'd like to wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy 2022! Hopefully we can connect with each other through temple services and activities once again. Thank you for your support of Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple! And I'd like to give special thanks to Reverend Kerry Kiyohara, our Kyodan officers, directors, advisors, Buddhist Women's Association, and the many volunteers who help to guide us throughout the year.

May you all be happy and well!

Clyde

Tax Incentive for Charitable Donation From an IRA Account

By: Fred Wong

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a withdrawal from an individual retirement account (IRA) that is made directly to an eligible charity approved by IRS. The IRA account can be traditional, rollover, or inherited.

Once you turn 72, or if you reached 70 ½ before Dec 31, 2019, you must begin to withdraw required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA account every year. The amount of your RMD is calculated by dividing the value of your traditional IRA by a life expectancy factor, as determined by the IRS. Such withdrawals are taxable as ordinary income.

A QCD satisfies your required minimum distribution for the year. More importantly, the distribution is not taxable.

The check must be made payable to the charitable organization from the IRA custodian. However, the check can be mailed to the donor who can in turn deliver it to the organization. The maximum amount that can be donated through a qualified charitable distribution is 100,000 per donor per year.

The information provided here is not meant to be a tax advice. Please consult your legal & financial professionals for details & updates.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Family of the **Late Mr. Hisao Yoshizu** (94) who passed away on September 6, 2021.

Family of the **Late Mr. Paul Takeshi Otani** (83) who passed away on October 21, 2021.

January & February 2022 Memorial Anniversaries

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

1st Year Memorial Service 2021

January - None

1st Year Memorial service 2021

February 13 Yoshio Kijima

3rd Year Memorial Service 2020

January - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2020

February 20 Michael Suda

7th Year Memorial Service 2016

January 14 Kazuo Takemoto

January 14 Nobuyoshi Jio

7th Year Memorial Service 2016

February 03 Haruyuki Yamanaka

February 08 George Freitas

13th Year Memorial Service 2010

January - None

13th Year Memorial Service 2010

February 09 Tsurue Sera

February 12 Dorothy Toshiko Matsui

February 21 Isamu Shimizu

17th Year Memorial Service 2006

January - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2006

February 05 Hajime Kawakami

February 11 Namiko Noda

25th Year Memorial Service 1998

January 01 Kiyomi Matsuura

January 03 Yoshimi Clyde Matsui

January 17 Norihito Yamazaki

January 18 Mildred Tsunozaki

25th Year Memorial Service 1998

February 04 Kiyoko Masusako

February 16 Kinu Matsumoto

February 16 Rikio Kawauchi

February 20 Tokie Adachi

33rd Year Memorial Service 1990

January 08 Kato Yamamoto

33rd Year Memorial Service 1990

February 16 Hisayoshi Takahashi

50th Year Memorial Service 1973

January 14 Mamoru Okuda

January 19 Hatsuno Mihara

50th Year Memorial Service 1973

February - 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.
Thank You!

Contributions November 25, 2021 to December 21, 2021

DONATION:

Christine Kubo

Robert Kobzi

Joann Yosemite

Jane Loeffler

Diane Kosaka

Peggy Nack

Edward Baldwin

In memory of Mankichi Nakamura & Ohana – Grace Shigeta

In memory of Kenneth Kubo & Mitsue Kubo and Relatives – Marion Merce

In memory of Fujiko Tanaka – Mitzi Tanaka

In memory of Masamitsu Tanaka – Mitzi Tanaka

In memory of Roy G. Onikama – Mr. and Mrs. Burton Onikama

In memory of Yoshito Takishita – Timmy and Kathy Takishita

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

In memory of Hatsumi and Tadashi Sugimura – Warren and Marian Sugimura

In memory of Nobuyoshi Jio – Mr. and Mrs. Stacey Jio

In memory of Hatsuichi and Shizuko Nishiyama – Janet Okuhama

Motion sensor – David Judd

Social Hall Use - Mimyo Kiyohara, Misae Tanizaki, Amy Teves



EITAIKYO:

Edwin and Mieko Kanemoto

Rogers and Karen Ishizu

PERPETUAL DHARMA FUND:

In honor of ancestors and departed loved ones of Nihei, Kijinami, Fukuda, and Sagawa families – Akio Nihei

Contribution to the Morgan Stanley Fund - Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hamai, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hamai

NOKOTSUDO:

Claire Kusukabe

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Otsubo

In memory of Roy Onikama – Ione Faye Isobe

In memory of Hyosaku Hamai and Patrick Hamai – Howard Hamai

OFUSE

Funeral Service for Hisao Yoshizu - Duane Yoshizu

Funeral Service for Paul Otani - Bernice Otani and Family

**MAKAWAO HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL
WISHES YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A JOYFUL 2022**



(not in order) Makanalei, Poppy, Mia, Cora, Lillikea, Sunset, Kinzee, Teagan, Karizuma, Jace, Kage, Lincoln, Isaiah, Joel, Manutea, Kuka'i, Keoua, Kenna, Jackson, Kenneth

SHINNENKAI and MHBT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 30, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Come join us for Shinnenkai Service. On this day, we will have installation of Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Council officers and advisors as well as BWA officers. We will also hold our Annual General Membership Meeting for sustaining members, during which time the Fukunaga Dana Award will be presented.

JEAN'S SEWING CLASS

Holiday Celebration Luncheon

By: Bobbi

Jean's Sewing Class got together to celebrate the holidays. What a joy it was to see friends again and share stories. The noises of happy chatter made us realize how much we missed socializing.

We had a big spread of potluck dishes plus entertainment from the "Kosaka Entertainers". We were treated to many Christmas songs plus a solo song by Kenneth!

The last project of the year was how to make custom gift bags using wrapping paper. Thank you, Jean, for your patience and your time. We look forward to more sewing projects in the coming year 2022.





“Farm to Temple to Sangha to *Tsukemono*”

By: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

Emeritus member Mrs. Jane Hiromoto made an offering of two cases of Japanese “*kyūri*” cucumbers to the temple recently, which we gratefully received and placed on the altar to Amida as an offering expressing gratitude for this moment of this day of this unrepeatable life.

From there, an informal “kitchen sangha” gathered to wash, cut, and lightly salt the fresh cucumbers to make Japanese-style *tsukemono* pickles. This style is best eaten fresh so the next day, another “kitchen sangha” gathered to pack and distribute more than 30 individually packed portions of *tsukemono* to our kupuna elders, who were delighted to receive an unexpected tasty treat.

Mahalo to Mrs. Jane Hiromoto for her practice of *dana*—selfless generosity—in making the offering to the temple, Escobedo Farms for growing such delicious cucumbers, and Diane K, Allison, Jean H, and Mimy for transforming two cases of cucumbers into delicious delicacies to be shared.

Like many of the Sangha “community of communities” that form at Hongwanji temples, the “kitchen sangha” doesn’t actually exist as a formal organization! Simply, people who like to prepare, share, and eat food come together naturally to enjoy each other’s company, learn new ways to create delicious foods, and make other people happy by sharing the bounty of upcountry Maui.

If you’d like to learn how to take fresh fruits and vegetables “from Farm to Temple to Sangha to *Tsukemono*” please let us know...world-famous Makawao Hongwanji pickled peach season is just around the corner!

ected tasty treat.



Gratitude Coins – Limited Number Available in Temple Bookstore

Our honorable friends and fellow travelers on the path at Wailuku Hongwanji have created unique Gratitude Coins as a fundraiser. We pre-purchased 20 of these gorgeous coins— brand new, fresh from the mint, and in original protective packaging—to offer for sale at \$10 each in the Temple Bookstore at Makawao Hongwanji to save you a round trip to the city! But act now, they’re sure to sell out. Contact Rie at the Temple Office (808) 572-7229 Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.~1:30 p.m. or makawaohongwanji@gmail.com

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Council Minutes Highlights
December 12, 2021, In-Person and viz Zoom

1. Treasurer's Report: Report submitted.
2. Minister's Report: Report submitted. There will not be Sunday service on January 2, 2022. First Sunday Service for 2022 will be on January 9.
3. Rev. Kerry will be off-island January 15-19, 2022, at Windward Temple. He is arranging coverage for various duties during his time away.
4. The Lay Speaker on Sunday January 16, 2022, will be Claude Moreau, our Judo Sensei.
5. Pauwela Cemetery Management Update: Sale of cemetery entered escrow. Interim cleanup for the cemetery property needs to be worked out.
6. New Year's 2022 Drive Through: Karen Ishizu reported that on 1/30/2022, following the Sunday Shennenkai service and General Membership Meeting , there will be a drive-through turkey bento pick up for temple members. It will be announced in the membership renewal letters.
7. Perpetual Dharma Fund: Presentation by Rev. Kerry as approved by Funeral and Columbarium Committee. Discussion of fund formation included clarification of religious meanings, desire to respect traditions, and simplification to single point of management for investment funds. Motion to approve was passed subject to refinement of administrative and record-keeping tasks.
8. Buddhist Education: Sharon Nagoshi reported that the library/Dharma Learning Center was moved from the Social Hall to the back of the Hondo.
9. Repair & Maintenance:
 - 1) Final report, emergency repair resources list, and repair log were submitted. Many thanks to Calvin Higuchi for these detailed reports and for his years of hard work supporting the temple.
 - 2) V.P. Karen Ishizu reported we recently added Paul Nishida and Kevin Yokoyama to the yard maintenance crew. They will work alongside Floyd Nagoshi, Sidney Nako, and Rogers Ishizu.
 - 3) Yagura is in need of repair.
10. Membership: Report submitted.
11. Funeral/Columbarium: Report submitted.
12. Properties: Report submitted.
13. HHMH Board of Directors: Report submitted. Voting delegates from MHBT for Legislative Assembly will be Carol Yamamura, Jean Heselden (substituting for Clyde Hamai), and Rev. Kerry Kiyohara. Contact Diane Kosaka by 12/31/2021 if you would like to be an observer.
14. Dharma School: Sharon Nagoshi reported that First Sunday 12/5/2021 Bodhi Day session went very well.
15. BWA: Karen reported that BWA State Conference will be held in April 2022 at Wailuku Hongwanji. MHBT BWA members need to email Carol Yamamura to let her know if they are interested in attending in-person or via Zoom. Makawao BWA will pay registration fees for our BWA members. 2023 World BWA Convention will be held in Kyoto in May 2023. Carol emailed forms to BWA members. Deadline is December 31, 2021.
16. Boy/Cub Scouts: Permission granted to use temple grounds. COVID safety protocols to be followed.

(Full text of Council meeting and reports can be obtained from the Temple Office.)



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

BISHOP'S CORNER

December 2021

"As we say good-bye to 2021, let's..."

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



As 2021 draws to a close, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to each and every one including our Hawaii Kyodan State President Dr. Warren Tamamoto, for your responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha in the form of your perseverance and continued moral and financial support of especially your local temple, but also our state-wide organization of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, its affiliate organizations, and various projects and programs. It has not been without struggles, but we have survived another year of this Pandemic not only for ourselves, but including trying to help others too. Thus, once again, I say "Thank you to you, the Sangha, for responding in gratitude to the Buddha and being guided by the Dharma."

The Jodo Shinshu or Nembutsu way of life, as being emphasized by His Eminence Kojun Ohtani, is very important and significant for us. As shared previously, in April of this year, Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani shared in a Message,

Jodo Shinshu is the teaching that we will attain enlightenment beyond form and become buddhas in the "Pure Land of naturalness" through shinjin alone. In shinjin we accept without doubt the heart of Amida Tathagata's Vow of "Namo Amida Butsu" – "Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are."

When we are touched by this warm compassion and learn of Amida Tathagata's wish for our life, we are empowered to live at ease, share joy and sadness with people, and a world of mutual respect and support opens up. With ease and joy, Shinran Shonin walked the path of gratitude for being saved by Tathagata's compassion. Aspiring to learn from his way of living and transmit his teaching to the next generations, I would like to express the essentials of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching in the following passage.

Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

Namo Amida Butsu.

"Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are." This is the calling voice of Amida. My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha's awakening, So the Buddha calls to me "I will liberate you just as you are."

Gratefully responding to the Buddha's call,

I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.

And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

Living with the Dharma as my guide

Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,

And allows me to share a warm smile and speak gentle words.

Sharing in the joy and sadness of others,

I shall strive to live each day to its fullest.

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In 2023, we are going to conduct a Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. In gratefulness for the birth of Shinran Shonin and his expounding of the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, let's recite "Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching" together, work together, and live a life of Nembutsu together to spread his teaching."

Today, I want to conclude by especially having us take note of His Eminence's words **"live a life of Nembutsu together to spread his (Shinran Shonin's) teachings."** We, the Hongwanji Sangha, each and every one of us, have a part to play in sharing Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. Thus, as we come to the end of 2021, let us take a moment to reflect on this and in the New Year, also, rededicate ourselves to our Hawaii Kyodan Mission Statement *"to share the living teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, so all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude."* Thank you and Namu Amida Butsu.

NAMOAMIDABUTSU

**MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND JANUARY 2022 ACTIVITIES**

December 31, 2021, New Year's Eve Service 6:00 p.m. (HST)

****Refreshments: Traditional Japanese 'toshi-koshi' soba noodles***

January 1, 2022, (Sat) New Year's Day Service 9:00 a.m. (HST)

****Refreshments: Traditional Japanese o-zoni soup***

January 2, 2022, (Sun) No Service

January 9, 2022, First Sunday: Shinran Memorial Service (Hoonko)

January 16, 2022, Lay Service at Makawao (Rev. Kerry at Windward)

Guest Speaker: Claude Moreau

January 23, 2022, Sunday Dharma Family Service

January 30, 2022, Installation of MHBT Officers, Shinnenkai Service