



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

April 2022

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

Return Service Requested

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SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

Sunday, April 3, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE
MHBT HANAMATSURI

Sunday, April 10
NO FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE
CENTRAL MAUI HANAMATSURI
VIDEO

Sunday, April 17, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, April 24, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
ESHINNI/KAKUSHINNI DAY
BWA

HANAMATSURI ...Celebrating the birth of Buddha.

On Sunday, April 3, 2022, Makawao Hongwanji will hold its in-person Hanamatsuri Service at 9:00 a.m. in the Temple. Those attending will be able to pour sweet tea on the baby Buddha Statue standing in the beautifully decorated Hanamido. The service will be followed by refreshments and fellowship. The service will also be livestreamed.

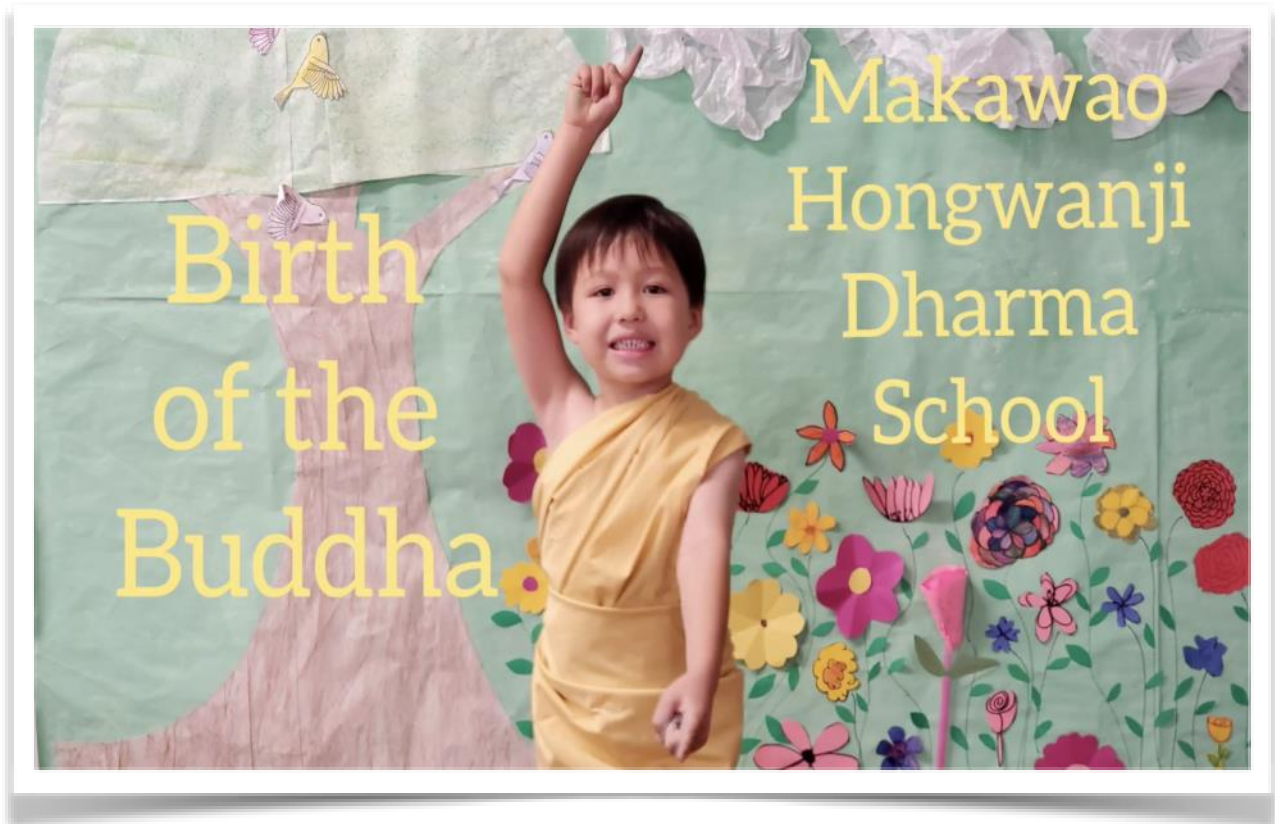
MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Happy Birthday, Buddha!

On April 8th, we join with Buddhists around the world in joyfully celebrating the Birth of the Buddha. For more than a century in Hawaii, Hongwanji Buddhist Temples continued the centuries-old Japanese Buddhist tradition called *Hanamatsuri*, The Flower Festival. With the *hanamido* 'Flower Palace' adorned with fresh flowers, the altars illuminated with the light of candles, and the aroma of incense softly floating through the air, everyone—little kids, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunties, the 'ohana of the Sangha—enjoys symbolically 'bathing the baby Buddha' with 'sweet rain', as the baby Buddha walks seven steps, points to sky with one hand and to the earth, and declares, ***"in the heavens above and on the earth below, I alone am the world-honored one."***



Everyone is welcome to join Makawao Hongwanji's Hanamatsuri Service in-person and via livestream on Sunday, April 3, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. (HST) for the WORLD PREMIERE of the Makawao Hongwanji Dharma School presentation of Birth of the Buddha! If you are able, please bring a fresh flower offering to celebrate the Flower Festival of *Hanamatsuri*.



Continues on page 3

Adopt-a-Butsudan 2022!

When I was a child, my older brother, younger sister, and I used to fight over who got to put the “Buddha Rice” (*o-buppan*, *buppan* in Japanese). Back in the day, we ate rice every day and it was our family custom that the first serving from each new pot of rice was offered to the Buddha. As a kid, I thought it was so cool to be allowed to light a candle and incense, ring the bell, and offer (“with two hands”) the fresh rice to Amida Buddha, and then put my hands together, bow my head, and say *Namo Amida Butsu*. And then, everyone would say together, “*itadakimasu!*” and finally we got to eat!

As a *sansei* third-generation Japanese-American son of “born in the USA” *nisei* parents and “came from Japan” *issei* grandparents, this simple ritual was my first experience of connection with my ancestors, my cultural identity, and my spiritual side on a daily basis. Like many of my generation, Sunday morning, mom and dad would say, “Wake up! We are going to church!”, which just happened to be a Hongwanji Buddhist temple in South-Central Los Angeles.

My most prized possession is a simple print of Amida Buddha with a frame I made with my own hands as a Sunday School activity. Inconceivably, this simple *go-honzon* (“honorific object of reverence”) has traveled with me from Los Angeles to Tokyo to Beijing to Shanghai to Honolulu and to Makawao over the course of six decades of life.

When Mimy and I moved to Honolulu in 2013, we “adopted” a beautiful *butusdan* from Moilili Hongwanji. Like all Hongwanji temples in Hawaii, Moilili Hongwanji had a huge collection of *butusdan* home altars and adornments (flower vase, incense burner, incense container, candle holder, bell, chanting books, altar cloths, etc.).

The *butusdan* home altar symbolizes the Pure Land of Amida, where all ordinary beings realize Awakening to Reality-as-it-is, and return to this world of human confusion and delusion in Oneness with Amida to guide all beings to their Birth.

As in my childhood, the *butusdan* home altar can be the focal point for one’s spiritual practice. In Japan, the daily ritual of lighting the candle and incense, offering rice and fresh flowers, chanting of *Shōshinge* or sutra is still common, although many people have opted for smaller sized altars to fit modern apartments.

There are many traditions associated with *butusdan* home altars, as well as *kamidana* home Shinto altars. Over the generations in Hawaii, the meaning and significance of the *butusdan* as a focal point for re-connection with one’s spiritual side, a way to connect with honored ancestors, departed loved ones, and dear friends who have gone before us, has sadly faded like old photographs.

Re-adopt me! I encourage everyone who has a family *butusdan* home altar to take 30 minutes today, dust off the altar and adornments, get some fresh flowers, light the candle, offer incense, and a food or other offering. Put your hand together with your *o-nenju* mindfulness beads, bow your head, and say *NamoAmidaButsu* quietly or loudly, as you prefer. Or chant the *Shōshinge* and six *Wasan* hymns (about 30 minutes)! By placing photographs or mementoes near the altar (by tradition, not inside the altar itself), you may be surprised at the sense of calmness that comes with even a “single thought-moment” of re-connection with your honored ancestors, departed loved ones, and dear friends. *NamoAmidaButsu!*



And if you don't have a *butsudan* home altar, call the Temple Office today and we'll be happy to help you adopt your *butsudan* (and adornments, *o-nenju* mindfulness beads, candles, incense, etc.)! We have several lovely *butsudan* in the rear of the temple (and a very large one in the social hall!) . And we'll be happy to help you find one at other temples on Maui or in Hawaii!



If you have children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews, consider this super-cute do-it-yourself *butsudan* kit available for \$12 (plus shipping) from the HQ Bookstore! If there is interest, the Temple can order a number of sets and have the Bookstore ship them over in one shipment to save on cost. Just let us know!

Would you like to learn more about how (re-)adopting a *butsudan* home altar can become the starting point for your personal practice of Nembutsu mindfulness of Amida? Give us a holler and we'll get you (re-)started today!

Mahalo,
Rev. Kerry

P.S. Writing this message reminded me: I need to clean my Amida and *butsudan*, he/she/they get choke dust, hahaha! NamoAmidaButsu!

SHARING IS CARING... Makawao Hongwanji's Canned Food Drive is much appreciated.

Thank you to all for your generous donations to the Maui Food Bank . Makawao's Food Drive collections were from February 27— March 31, 2022. Dharma School students helped to count and pack all of the canned goods for distribution at the Maui Food Bank. Together we can all make a difference.

MAHALO!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK!

It was great to see familiar faces again when the temple reopened for in-person Sunday services on February 27. After the January Covid 19 temple closure, we finally held our annual general membership meeting, installation of officers, and a New Year bento drive-through giveaway for members. After closing and opening so many times, I'm sure that everyone's hoping that we won't be mandated to close again and we can go back to all of our activities like Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Judo, Garage Sale, Bazaar, Obon, fundraisers, and other activities. It's been too long, hasn't it? But we should always remember that nothing is permanent and be ready to accept changes as they come along. The Pandemic taught us a lot about this.



We should live and enjoy our lives everyday. Here is a quote from Dr. Kenneth Tanaka's book, *JEWELS* that I got via Sharon Higuchi. "YESTERDAY IS HISTORY. TOMORROW IS A MYSTERY. TODAY IS A GIFT. THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED PRESENT." ENJOY AND APPRECIATE YOUR GIFT EVERYDAY!

May you all be happy and well,
Clyde

DONATIONS FOR HALE MAKUA

Makawao BWA is collecting donations for Hale Makua to use for Bingo and Country Store. Any items that the residents will find useful or can enjoy for fun would be appreciated. Thank you for caring and sharing with our friends at Hale Makua.

**PLEASE DROP OFF AT CHURCH OFFICE BY APRIL 30.
THANK YOU!**



SANBAIZUKE - Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple sanbaizuke is now available for purchase at \$5 each.



NEW ITEM: TAKUAN \$5 each

April & May 2022 Memorial Anniversaries
(Please call Temple Office to schedule your service—572-7229)

1st Year Memorial Service 2021

April - None

1st Year Memorial service 2021

May 20 Melvin Takeo Hamamoto

3rd Year Memorial Service 2020

April 16 Kenneth Yuji Oishi
April 25 Edwin “Ed” Yamamura

3rd Year Memorial Service 2020

May - None

7th Year Memorial Service 2016

April 13 Kazuko Kay Yoshioka
April 22 Shirley Hamai

7th Year Memorial Service 2016

May 11 Goro Fujikawa
May 21 Haruko Goshi

13th Year Memorial Service 2010

April 07 Elroy Fujio Yamashiro
April 25 Mitsue Hamai

13th Year Memorial Service 2010

May - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2006

April - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2006

May 31 Bich Thuan Pham

25th Year Memorial Service 1998

April 06 Kiyome Nagata
April 14 Kazumi Tanimoto

25th Year Memorial Service 1998

May 20 Tsuru Unemori

33rd Year Memorial Service 1990

April - None

33rd Year Memorial Service 1990

May 09 Hyozo Noda

50th Year Memorial Service 1973

April 14 Kame Tanahara
April 27 Kaji Ikeda

50th Year Memorial Service 1973

May 11 Jyue Migita

Correction: Robin Tengan’s 1st Memorial Cycle was inadvertently omitted from our March Newsletter. We sincerely apologize.



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 February 22, 2022 to March 21, 2022

DONATION:

Edward Tengan

Christine Kubo

Christy Vail

Annette Tashiro

Joann Yosemite

Walter and Yvonne Waki (Rev. Ken Tanaka seminar)

J P and Shari De Jesus (Rev. Ken Tanaka seminar)

Hanako Hashimoto

Arthur Onikama

Duane and Jan Yoshizu

Calvin and Sharon Higuchi (Rev. Ken Tanaka seminar)

Burton Onikama

In memory of Hatsuichi and Shizuko Nishiyama – Nora Nishiyama

In memory of Gladys Ushijima – Ronald and Gail Reiko Hamai

In memory of Robert Shinichi Akemoto and family – Betty Mizuguchi

In memory of Masako Noda – Hiroko Noda

In memory of Roy and Violet Onikama, Glen Isobe – Arthur Onikama

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

In memory of Hideo and Misayo Nakamura – Colin Nakamura

In memory of Hideo Nakamura (50th memorial) – Faith and Donald Ito

In memory of Sadagoro and Ume Imanaka – Merle and Lorna Beghtel

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

Shinnenkai – Lyman and Marilyn Morikawa, Glenn and Diane Kosaka, Diane and

Sidney Nako, Noboru Hironaka, Gail and Peter Nakamae, Marcie and Carlin

Ventura, Misae Tanizaki, Marion Morikawa, Rogers and Karen Ishizu

Ho-onko and Ohigan – Lyman and Marilyn Morikawa, Marion Morikawa

Garage sale donation – Loretta Cho



NOKOTSUDO:

Lisa N. Takata

Alan and Jane Tamiya

Harold Makimoto

Hiroko Noda

In memory of Nakamura and Tengan families – Janet Nakamura

OFUSE:

Chelsea Criswell

Funeral service for Namiko Nakagawa – Family of Namiko Nakagawa

Funeral service for LeRoy Michio Shibuya – Family of LeRoy Michio Shibuya

Funeral service for Harriet Harue Owara – Family of Harriet Harue Owara

3rd year memorial service for Harriet Miyake – Family of Harriet Miyake

Inurnment service for Faith Nojima Munden – Family of Faith Nojima Munden

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

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING - \$34.80

SENIOR PROGRAM

By: Alison

Hello all seniors! Are you ready to get together to talk story and partake in our delicious lunch? Let's start the Makawao Hongwanji Senior Program again. COVID is slowing down and it seems safe to meet in person.

Starting in April, on the second Thursday (April 14), let's meet at the Dana House at 9:30 a.m. We will begin with a short service followed by discussions on meeting dates & time and activities including excursions. There will be fun projects to do while we chat and laugh. Finally, we will have lunch!

Let me know if you can join us!



SAVE THE DATE

October 16, 2022

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

For

PAIA HONGWANJI (115 YEARS)

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI (50 YEARS)

... More information to come ...



A sign of normalcy, our beautiful Jaime all dressed up for her 2022 Kekaulike High School Junior Prom.

MOCHIKO CHICKEN

(Makawao Hongwanji Mission 100th Anniversary Cookbook)

<i>4 lb. chicken thighs or wings</i>	<i>5 Tbsp. shoyu</i>
<i>2 Tbsp. flour</i>	<i>1 tsp oyster sauce</i>
<i>4 Tbsp. cornstarch</i>	<i>2 eggs</i>
<i>4 Tbsp. mochiko</i>	<i>Ajinomoto (optional)</i>
<i>4 Tbsp. sugar</i>	<i>Sesame seeds</i>
<i>1 3/4 tsp. salt</i>	

Mix ingredients with chicken and marinate for 2 hours. Fry slowly in oil.

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Council Minutes Highlights
March 13, 2022, In-Person and via Zoom

1. Boy Scouts Charter Organization Representative: Rev. Kerry will serve as representative.
2. Jr. YBA requested use of Social Hall for overnight retreat. Council approved.
3. Monthly services restarted at Kula Hospital and monthly rotation restarted at Hale Makua Kahului.
4. Central Maui Hanamatsuri in April: Karen Ishizu reported that the pre-recorded program will be shown via YouTube on Sunday 4/10/2022.
5. Makawao's Hanamatsuri Schedule:
 - Saturday 4/2/2022 at 8 a.m., Sharon Nagoshi in charge of decorating Hanamido with flowers.
 - Sunday 4/3/2022 at 9 a.m., Makawao Hongwanji will hold in-person Hanamatsuri Service.
 - Sunday 4/10/2022 at 9 a.m., Makawao Hongwanji will view the Central Maui Hanamatsuri video in place of Sunday Service, followed by refreshments and monthly Council Meeting in Social Hall.
7. Garage Sale July 2-3, 2022: **SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** Co-Chairpersons Gail Hamai and Karen Ishizu reported that the tentative date is set for July 2 & 3. Sunday July 3 is Bazaar. Karen will announce date to accept garage sale donations.
8. Anniversary Celebration on October 16, 2022: This will be to celebrate the 115th Anniversary of Paia Hongwanji and 50th anniversary of Makawao Hongwanji. Karen Ishizu and Diane Kosaka will chair, Marilyn Morikawa and Sharon Nagoshi on committee.
9. Fujimatsuri May 2022: Kahului Hongwanji will host this event. Makawao's reps are Bobbi Nakagawa and Carol Yamamura.
10. Obon 2022: Sharon Nagoshi is Chairperson. The Scouts will repair the yagura. Hatsubon services will be held.
11. General Clean Up Day: Date for clean up will be July 17, 2022.
12. Membership: Report submitted.
13. Funeral/Columbarium: Report submitted.
14. Properties: Report submitted.
15. BWA: Diane Kosaka reported that quotes are being sought for upgrading the sink area in the women's and men's restrooms. Statewide BWA Federation will be held on April 23-24, 2022 on Zoom.
16. Cub Scouts: Recent fishing activity on lawn in front of Social Hall went very well.
17. Dharma School: Hanamatsuri skit will be part of the Dharma School.
18. Jr. YBA: Will hold an overnight event using Makawao's Social Hall.
19. Judo Club: Restarted practice in February.



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

TROOP 18 CUB SCOUTS

By: Shari de Jesus

In March, Pack 18 Club Scouts participated in a community service project. Seventeen scouts and their families assisted in the Eco-Skyline reforestation project. This is one way we can help combat climate change and malama i ka aina. To date, approximately 17,500 native trees and shrubs have been planted with the help of hundreds of volunteers at this site.



Well done is better than well said
Benjamin Franklin



TROOP 18 CUB SCOUTS



Well done!



Statement on Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

On February 24, 2022, Russia aggressively began its invasion of Ukraine through military force.

It has been reported that in cities across Ukraine, many civilians including children have become victims in addition to the well over one million Ukrainian citizens forced to flee becoming refugees.

We, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization, strongly condemn taking human life lightly as well as using military force to unilaterally try to change reality through violent actions for no matter what reason.

In addition to the invasion of Ukraine, the reality is that terrorist attacks and military warfare continue across the world. Reiterating our stance against violence, it is our fervent hope that a peaceful resolution may be realized as soon as possible and that there be a safe return to peace for the people of Ukraine.

Overcoming conflict that arises through mutual exclusion and differences in thinking and values, I firmly believe that through joint efforts, the path to perpetual peace will open up to a life of spiritual richness.

March 8, 2022

IWAGAMI Chiko
Governor General
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

COVID-19 Resilience Grant

To help ensure temples can safely operate during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic the Committee on Social Concerns has created the COVID-19 Resilience Grant. This grant can be used to help purchase Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, etc.) as well as cleaning and disinfecting supplies used to reduce the risk of infection.

Any temple affiliated with Hawaii Kyodan may apply to receive a grant of up to a maximum of \$500.00. To apply, submit a letter indicating the amount requested and detailing how grant funds will be used. The letter must be signed by Temple President or Minister. Committee on Social Concerns, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Attn: Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received.

Current Grants Awarded:

\$500 *Makawao Hongwanji Mission*
\$500 Moiliili Hongwanji Mission
\$500 Kahului Hongwanji Mission
\$500 Mililani Hongwanji Mission
\$500 Papaikou Hongwanji Mission
\$500 Puna Hongwanji Mission
\$500 Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin
\$200 Lihue Hongwanji Mission

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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

BISHOP'S CORNER

MARCH 2022

**“Dharma Message for a 49th Day Service in honor of
the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh (Part 1)**

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

This message was given at a 49th Day Service in honor of the Venerable
Thich Nhat Hanh at Honokaa Hongwanji on March 12, 2022



Aloha Kākou! Today, as we pay tribute to one of the greatest modern day Buddhist Teachers in the world, the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh, who passed away on January 22, 2022 at the age of 95, it is not without sadness that I share this message. Many in the world may be thinking, as what happened when the Historic Buddha entered Parinirvana, that “Too soon he passes from this world.” Needless to say, the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh was an extraordinary leader and teacher embodying so much of the Buddhist Teachings, the Dharma with his thoughts, words, and actions. In fact, it was his life.

In our allotted time, today, I cannot enumerate all of his life endeavors and accomplishments. Also, many of you, know much more about his contributions in which he stayed true to the words of the Historic Buddha, Sakyamuni, *“Go forth for the good of the many, for the happiness of the many, out of compassion for the world, for the welfare, the good and the happiness of gods and men.”* Thus, today, I would like to focus my message, in honor of him, on the significance of the comment he made in 2015 and how we might truly pay our respects, express our gratitude and possibly alleviate some of the sadness and lament which many might be experiencing because of his passing.

If I were a great bodhisattva or highly advanced on the Path, I would be able to fully integrate without obstacles the words of the Historic Buddha, *“My disciples, my last moment has come, but do not forget that death is only the end of the physical body. The body (that was) born from parents and nourished by food; just as inevitable are sickness and death. “But the true Buddha is not a human body-it is Enlightenment. A human body must die, but the Wisdom of Enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma, and in the practice of the Dharma. He who sees merely my body does not truly see me. Only he who accepts my teaching truly sees me.” “After my death, the Dharma shall be your teacher. Follow the Dharma and you will be true to me.”*

Most recently, we, at Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, had our Ministers’ Spring Seminar with our Guest Lecturer Prof. Rev. Kensuke Okamoto of Ryukoku University of Kyoto, Japan. Two of his lectures focused on the topic of “What the Buddha Taught Before His Death.” In one of his lectures, he shared the attitudes and perspectives of 3 disciples when they were confronted with the absence of the Buddha. To be clear, these 3 stories are not from the time of the actual demise of Sakyamuni, but from the episode of his life when he was not physically present in the human world or dimension with his ascending to the Heavenly Realms as he sought to share the Dharma with his deceased Mother, the former Queen Maya who did not have the opportunity to hear the Dharma while she was living in the human world.

As the Historic Buddha, out of compassion, embarked on this particular journey of sharing the Dharma, the disciples of the Buddha in the human dimension were faced with the dilemma of his absence. In a way, similar to what many would later experience with the Buddha’s Parinirvana. The question is “How did people deal with and respond to the Buddha’s absence?” Likewise, “How are we, of the present, responding to the passing of one of the greatest teachers of our current times?”

Continues on Page 14

Continued on Page 13

As we continue to reflect, let me introduce, the responses of the Disciples Uppalavanna, Pingiya, and Subhuti which was shared by Prof. Okamoto.

First, the Disciple Uppalavanna. She wanted to be the first to worship the Buddha after the Buddha's return from the Heavenly Realms. Thus, she dispersed a crowd that had gathered to greet the Buddha and was able to worship the World Honored One before anyone else. She was focused on the physical presence or the human body of the Buddha which is a very common reaction.

Next, there was the Disciple Pingiya. He, in part says, "I cannot stay away from him even for a moment...from Gotama of great understanding, from Gotama of great intelligence". "I see him with my mind as if with my eye..." "I go constantly on a mental journey for my mind...is joined to him." According to Prof. Okamoto, "*Pingiya... presents the position that through the act of thinking of or remembering the Buddha, we can meet him, even if he (the Buddha) is not in front of us. In other words, even if one is away from a person one depends on, it is possible to relieve one's anxiety.*"

Finally, there is the response of the Disciple Subhuti. According to Prof. Okamoto, in sharing about Subhuti, "*He did not go to the Buddha's place of descent, but rather deeply contemplated the Buddha's teachings (dharma observance).*" In one of the accounts, it is said that Subhuti is about to do the same as Uppalavanna, but reconsiders when he deeply reflected and realized that the physical body and mind of the Buddha and human beings including the surrounding physical environment all are composed of the same earth, water, fire and wind and when he further contemplated on the following teaching, "*The buddhas of the past and the future, as well as the Buddha of (the) present, are all impermanent. If you want to worship the Buddha, you should observe the dhammas in the past, future, and present.*" According to Rev. Okamoto, Subhuti's response shares that "*deep consideration of the Buddha's teaching (dharma observance) is nothing other than worshipping the Buddha.*" He (Prof. Okamoto) consoles and encourages us that "*We feel anxious when someone close to us, someone we respect and depend on, leaves us... And if such a person passed away, it is not hard to imagine that one would then be filled with anxiety and loneliness. The Buddhists of the past must have felt the same unease when the Buddha went away and when he entered final nirvana. However, Buddhist scriptures teach us how to stay close to the Buddha even in such times.*"

The Historic Buddha is known to have said that even if a person is right next to him holding on to a corner of his robe if that person does not embrace the Dharma, the person is not close to me. However, a person who might be separated from me by hundreds or even thousands of miles, but knows the Dharma, that person is very close to me.

Let us now turn to the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh. He is known to have said,

I have a disciple in Vietnam who wants to build a stupa for my ashes when I die. He and others want to put a plaque with the words, "Here lies my beloved teacher." I told them not to waste the temple land...I suggested that, if they still insist on building a stupa, they have the plaque say, "I am not in here." But in case people don't get it, they could add a second plaque, "I am not out there either." If still people don't understand, then you can write on the third and last plaque, "I may be found in your way of breathing and walking."

This is my interpretation, but to me, the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh is saying exactly the same thing as the Historic Buddha and encouraging us to focus on the Dharma, the Teachings and this is the way to be close to the Buddha and also honor our great masters and teachers. It is by not overly focusing on their physical presence or lack of it, but focus on what they taught, focus on how they lived in the Dharma.

(To be continued in the 2022 April issue of Bishop's Corner)

2022 SPRING VIRTUAL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Sponsored by the Honolulu & Oahu Hongwanji Councils and the Office of Buddhist Education

Building Sangha Together: *Nurturing Dharma - Centered Communities*

Saturday April 30 | 9a - 11a (HST)

Community has always been a strength of Shin Buddhism in America. Innovative and responsive community building grounded in the Dharma has enabled temples to thrive for more than a century. However, the traditional ways of building Sangha have been less effective as we face new challenges during this time of pandemic. Rev. Blayne will explore what it means to be Sangha in today's world. How do we journey together as spiritual friends? And how can we nurture an authentic community of fellow travelers inspired by the Buddha's teachings? Participants will have an opportunity to cultivate Sangha through a facilitated group discussion.



Reverend Blayne Higa
Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

"Bring your whole self as we learn & grow in the Dharma together."

AGENDA

9:00am - 9:05am:
Welcome

9:05am - 9:45am:
Guest Speaker Rev. Higa

9:45am - 9:55am:
Q & A Session

9:55am - 10:00am: Break

10:00am - 10:30am:
Breakout Group Discussion

10:30am - 10:55am:
Breakout Group Sharing

10:55am - 11:00am:
Closing

Until 11:30am: Free "Talk Story" Time

REGISTRATION IS FREE | Deadline April 22, 2022

CLICK LINK TO REGISTER

[<https://forms.gle/4ShPw8emshpmm9Sm8>]

Donations are welcome— Funds will be designated for Buddhist Education.

CLICK LINK TO DONATE

[<http://bit.ly/hhmhdonate>]

Please make checks payable to: Oahu Hongwanji Council. Mail registration form & checks to:
Mililani Hongwanji, Attn: Nembutsu Seminar, P.O. Box 893308, Mililani, HI 96789

QUESTIONS? Please contact Mililani Hongwanji office (808) 625-0925.

Visit our Dharma Hub for more statewide educational offerings | [<https://bschawaii.org/calendar>]

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am First Sunday Dharma Family Service & Children's Dharma School MHBT Hanamatsuri	4 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	5	6 10:00 am Monthly Service Kula Hospital	7 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	8	9
10 9:00 am Central Maui Hanamatsuri (Video only) MHBT	11 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	12	13	14 9:30 am ~ 12:00 pm Senior Program 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	15	16
17 9:00 am Family Service	18 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	19	20	21 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	22	23 *BWA State Conference
24 9:00 am Family Service *BWA State Conference	25 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	26	27	28 7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm Judo	29	30

NAMOAMIDABUTSU