



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

July 2022

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Resident Minister: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI MISSION
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Makawao, HI.—96768

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SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

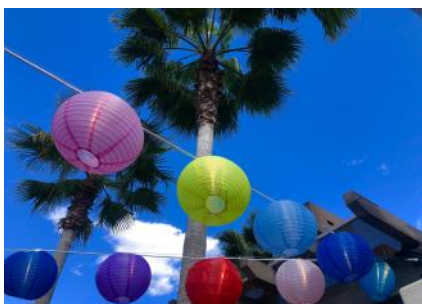
**Sunday, July 3, 2022
GARAGE SALE AND BAZAAR**

**Sunday, July 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE**

**Sunday, July 17, 2022, 8:00 a.m.
GENERAL CLEAN UP**

**Sunday, July 24
NO SERVICE - RECUPERATE FROM OBON**

**Sunday, July 28, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE**



OBON AT MAKAWAO HONGWANJI SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022

**HATSUBON SERVICE 6 P.M.
DANCE 7 P.M.**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

If no *bachi*, why *Hatsubon*? Why Bon Dance?

Hatsubon is the first *Bon* memorial service since the departed loved one, dear friend, and/or cherished companion went forth to Birth in the Pure Land, becoming Buddha, and returning in Oneness with Amida to this samsara world of human confusion and delusion to guide others to their Birth in the Pure Land. For the family and friends left behind, *Hatsubon* first *bon* memorial service, like all memorial cycle services in the Hongwanji tradition, has deep meaning and profound significance.

In the Hongwanji tradition, there are no magical powers associated with rites and rituals performed by the priest. Shinran-*shōnin*, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji tradition, teaches there is no need to fear *bachi* (punishment, negative consequence, misfortune) for the departed loved one, dear friend, and/or cherished companion if *Hatsubon* (and other memorial cycle) services are not officiated by an ordained priest.

You're probably thinking to yourself, "*If no bachi, why Hatsubon?*"



The meaning and significance of *Hatsubon* as a religious ritual is to remind us of our debt of gratitude to countless people that we know—our honored ancestors, our family, our friends, our communities, our 'ohana—and especially to unseen people we don't know, whose labor and hard work make our lives possible.

Reminded of our debt of gratitude to so many people, we are forced to realize the Truth of Non-Self: this unrepeatable life is not about ME (my Ego). We live only because of the inter-dependent connections between all life. We begin to see how it is ME (my Ego) that drives our selfish *thoughts*, sparks hurtful *words*, and compels wrong *actions*. As we become increasingly aware of the dominance of ME (my Ego), we are humbled because we see ourselves as fundamentally self-centered, all-too-human, utterly ordinary beings.

When we are brought to see ourselves in the light of reality-as-it-is, we begin to see the true meaning of *Hatsubon* First Bon Memorial Service. We are forced to realize this year is the first Bon, Obon, and Bon Dance without the physical presence of the departed loved one, dear friend, and/or cherished companion, which makes us feel sad and miss them even more.

And yet, in that single thought-moment, we are re-connected with our love and affection for our departed loved ones, dear friends, and/or cherished companions. Whether the memory is of a smile, a laugh, or a joyful moment together, there is a reason why the memory comes back to you. Put your busy life on "pause" and simply reflect upon the memory, the person, and the causes and conditions that led to the creation of the memory. Here's a simple meditation: close your eyes, sit quietly, and take 10 deep breaths, focusing on that memory. Then reflect upon why this particular memory came to you!

The meaning and significance of *Hatsubon* will come to you, if you let it. NamoAmidaButsu!

And if that's a bit too much, then **JUST DANCE!** In the Hongwanji tradition, the annual Bon Memorial Service is called "*kangi-e*," the Gathering of Joy. The origin story of Obon relates how a disciple of Buddha danced in joy upon learning of his mother's salvation from a Buddhist hell realm. The story is related in the Ullambana Sutra, which is transliterated from the Chinese translation from Sanskrit as "*urabon-kyō*"—and the character for "*bon*" becomes Bon and O-Bon.

For Shin Buddhists in the Hongwanji tradition in Hawaii, obon season is really about BON DANCE, FOOD, and FRIENDS! Hawaii's bon dance culture is unique: the Bon Dance is now a "local kine" community festival—everyone who lives in Hawaii looks forward to the Bon Dance season every year. You don't have to be Buddhist to enjoy a Bon Dance in Hawaii!

What is the meaning and significance of a Bon Dance to Shin Buddhists?

Bon Dance is DANCE: Even if you're not a dancer, consider standing up and dancing even one song...don't worry about how you look: you're supposed to look silly—and if you are dancing because you think, "I look good!" then it's your Ego dancing.

"Some fools dance. Some fools watch. We are all fools. Just dance!"
—Buddha (never said that)

Continues From Page 2, Minister's Message

Bon Dance is COMMUNITY: Every temple and organization that hosts Bon Dances has its specialty foods—like Makawao Hongwanji's world-famous Chow Fun—and often the entire temple sangha, members, friends, and affiliated organizations like Jr. YBA, Cub Scouts, Scouts, and Judo Club show up, roll up their sleeves, and pitch in to do what needs to be done. Working together, discovering common interests, and doing something for the greater good is the practice of nudging our Ego-self into the background.

Bon Dance is EATING: “*itadakimasu*” and “*go-chisō-sama*” means eating and Buddhist practice are all rolled into one. It's easy to giggle at Ann Wallner's insight, “Our practice is eating,” when explaining the “practice” of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists in the Hongwanji tradition because it's very true. But when you think about it, the simple act of putting our hands together in *gasshō*, bowing our heads, and saying, “*itadakimasu*” and “*go-chisō-sama*” before and after a meal, any meal, every meal are very profound actions on the spiritual path.

To say, “*Itadakimasu! NamoAmidaButsu! Let's eat!*” is to express in words the realization, “(We) are allowed to gratefully receive (this meal)” before eating. The language is directional, with the person saying, “*itadakimasu*,” acknowledging the reality they are receiving the favor, the fruits of another person's labor.

To say “*go-chisou-sama*” “(you are) the “honorific running-around person” is to express in words our recognition that this meal was prepared by someone deserving of our recognition and respect, the food was grown or raised or caught by people we've never met, and processed/packaged/distributed/placed on shelves/rung up at cash registers, before it gets to our mouths!

This practice, the “practice of eating,” can be quite profound if practiced with deliberate intent.

Finally, **Bon Dance is CONNECTION:** we've all lost touch with family, friends, and neighbors during the isolation imposed by the pandemic. As a temple, our great hope in hosting the Bon Dance in 2022 is to create the time, place, and occasion for people to reconnect with old friends, to connect with new friends, and to join in the greater community of the island of Maui!

JUST DANCE!

Mahalo,
Rev. Kerry



Sangha friends running into each other at Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Church: Andy, Betty, Mieko, Pearl. What a beautiful day to talk story and enjoy each other's company. What a joy!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WE'RE BACK! After two years of being absent, our Garage Sale/Bazaar took off with a bang of record breaking sales this past 4th of July weekend. The steering committee had lots of concerns, like most other organizations, about putting on this major event. After much discussion co-chairs Karen Ishizu and Gail Hamai got a yes vote from the council to proceed and the wheels started turning again. It took two weeks of setting up, unpacking, sorting and pricing to get ready for the sale. Fortunately the usual help from the affiliated organizations, friends of the temple and members once again came together and had fun, enjoyed the camaraderie and worked hard for two weeks to stage what many have labeled "the best Garage Sale on Maui". I was there for several of the days and was amazed and gratified to see so many people who we haven't seen for over two years come back to help. The committee leaders and their support quickly fell into place and this all resulted in record breaking sales this past weekend.



Thank you to all who helped for a day, a couple days or some for two weeks straight. We couldn't have done it without you! There are too many people to thank individually so a big Mahalo to you all! I'm proud to be a leader of this great organization with the support and confidence that you have shown. This newsletter is a little late because our two editors in charge had major roles in our Garage Sale yesterday and are back today, July 4th, wearing their "other temple hat". Thank you Bobbi and Gail!

May You All Be Happy and Well!

Clyde



BAZAAR TIME – A BRIEF HISTORY By: Marilyn

Makawao Hongwanji Fourth of July Bazaar began in 1971 as a means to pay off the \$70,000 loan to build the new Makawao church when the move was made from Paia. Popular items were pickled peach, chow fun, sushi, and fresh Kula vegetables. In 1974, the Garage Sale was added with plants, rummage, and used furniture. More baked goods and food items were also made, and in 1989, chili and rice, chili hot dog, and spam musubi were added.

August newsletter reports the Grand total for July 9, 1977 Bazaar was \$16,774.62 and says:

"Until we get all bills, we don't know exact amount of net profit. However we estimate around \$16,000 including monetary donations. This profit Guarantee us to pay back all our debt for Temple Building Fund. (Thank you very much and BANZAI!)"



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 May 22, 2022 to June 23, 2022

DONATION:

Waialua Floral Designs

Thomas Nishida

Jane Loeffler

Christine Kubo

Annette Tashiro

JoAnn Yosemite

Burton Onikama

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Yoshizu

Cynthia Ikeda

In memory of Edwin Yamamura – Carol Yamamura

In memory of Mihara family – Mihara family

In memory of Chiyoko Joan Tokuoka – Mr. and Mrs. William Higa, Gail and Peter Nakamae, Karen Tanaka

In memory of Betsy Matsumura – Amy Teves, Jacqueline and Stanley Kiyonaga, Gail and Peter Nakamae, Clarita Mitchell, First Hawaiian Bank, Andrew and Betty Hirose

In memory of Sally Nakamura – Amy Curry and Colin Nakamura

In memory of Naoyoshi Tsukuda (33rd year memorial) – Rene and Bryan Murakami

In memory of Haruko Goshi (7th year memorial) – Jane Sato

In memory of Sawayo Mizoguchi (13th year memorial) – Lon and Terrie Mizoguchi

In memory of Shigeji Harada – Kimberly Yamada

In memory of Akira Hedani family and Harriet Miyake – Wayne Hedani

In memory of Janice Shiraki (1st year memorial) – Joan and Ken Kitagawa, Paul Matsunaga

In memory of Mitsuko Matsui – Susan Matsui Matsubara, Toby, Tabitha, Mason, Elly and Miles Matsubara, Kay Tesoro, Tiara, Ethan Cian, and Lily O'Dwyer, Kirsten Matsui

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

In memory of Kazuo and Misao Tamura – Merle and Lorna Beghtel, Kenneth and Joann Tamura

In memory of Roy and Violet Onikama – Arthur Onikama

Fujimatsuri and Mother's Day – Lyman and Marilyn Morikawa

115th and 50th ANNIVERSARY DONATION:

Clyde and Gail Hamai

Hiromi and Jo-Ann Tanaka

Mark Tanaka

NOKOTSUDO:

Dale Kawahara

Mae Balmores

Patsy Makimoto

Rene Murakami

Harold Makimoto

In memory of Chester and Shirley Kawahara – Kelvin and Lynn Nakamura

In memory of Alynette Nagamine – Nathan Nagamine



Continues on Page 6

OFUSE:

Funeral service for Megumi Takemoto – Family of Megumi Takemoto

Funeral service for Mitsuko Matsui – Family of Mitsuko Matsui

7th year memorial service for Tadashi Gohara – Family of Tadashi Gohara

17th year memorial service for Susumu Nishiyama – Family of Susumu Nishiyama

Memorial service for Akira and Tatsue Hedani, Miyo Sugimura, Penelope Hedani - Hedani and Sugimura families

49th day service for Mitsuko Matsui – Family of Mitsuko Matsui

In memory of Megumi Takemoto – Alton and Susan Watanabe

In memory of Mitsuko and Yukio Matsui, Clyde Matsui – Susan Matsui Matsubara

NEWSLETTER:

Kunio and Lillian Kobayashi

Jane Sato

Maui News Ad: Clyde Hamai



JUDO CLUB NEWS

Makawao Hongwanji's Judo Club member Brenden Hanada is "perhaps the most experienced Judoka in the Maui Interscholastic League", according to the Maui News. Brenden was recently chosen as the Maui News MIL Judoka of the year along with fellow Kamehameha student, Zaysha-Maelee Keawe. Hanada, a brown belt and a 2022 graduate of Kamehameha School was the MIL Champion at 114 lbs. after an undefeated league slate. Hanada has been a member of Makawao Hongwanji's Judo Club under the direction of Sensei Claude Morreau since he was five, according to his mom, Michelle Hanada.

According to the Maui News, Brenden is quoted as saying... *"It made me a lot more social and a lot more active in my community, just as a person in general, it helped me spread out and be more compassionate."*

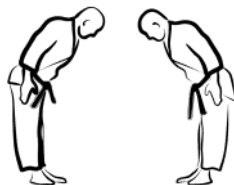
Makawao Hongwanji's Sangha is proud of you... **Congratulations Brenden!**

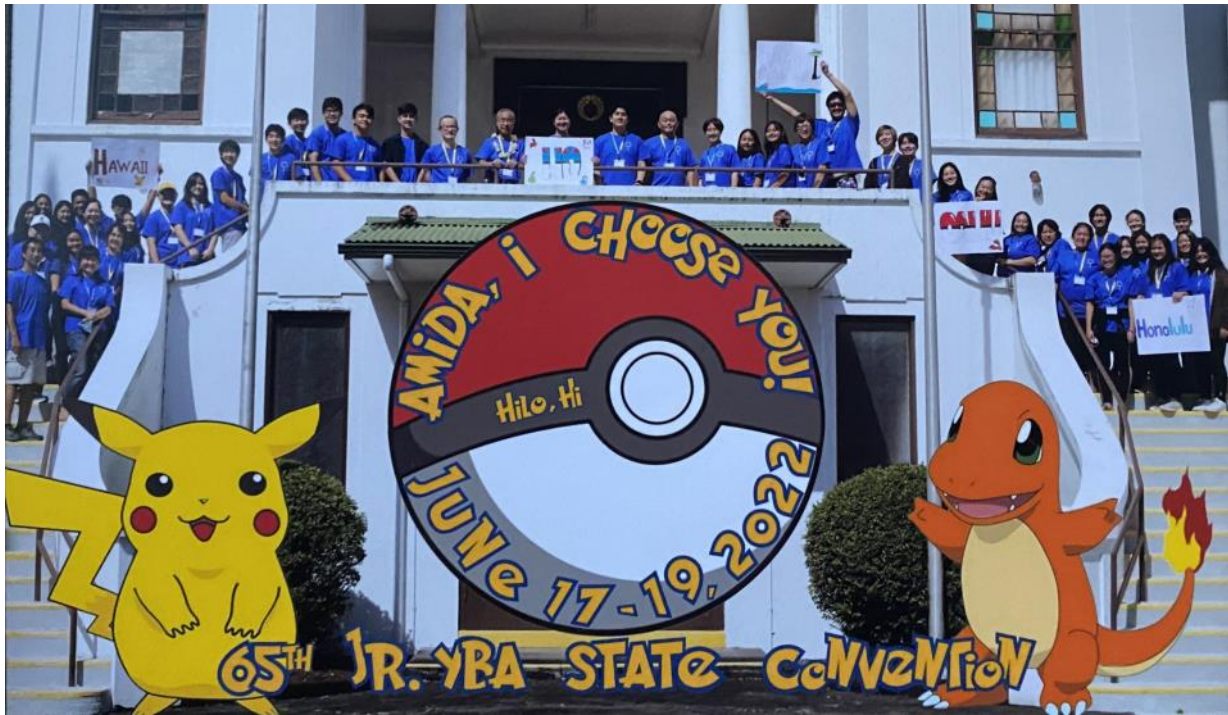


The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photos

Warriors senior Brenden Hanada wins by ippon over Molokai's Tyren Takenaka during and MIL meet in April. Hanada went undefeated during an MIL season and won two matches at the state tournament.

The Maui News 6/18-19/2022





Maui United Jr YBA

By: Diane Nako

AMIDA, I CHOOSE YOU! The 65th Jr. YBA State Convention was held on June 17-19, 2022, in Hilo. The Jr's participating were Jaimee, Kaylie and Wesley along with Advisors Wayde Toyama, Diane Nako and Reverend Hironaka. Upon arrival, we were greeted by our Big Island hosts and shuttled to the Hilo Hongwanji where we would spend the next three days making new friends, socializing with other Jr's from across the State of Hawaii. We had all our meals together in the Sangha hall, enjoyed the fun workshop and spent two days in business meetings. Jr. YBA awards were presented and finally the installation of new Federation officers took place. We started our mornings at 8:30 a.m. and ended around 9:30 p.m. Congratulations to the Hawaii

Island JR YBA for a successful in-person convention, a first since 2019.



Here is a recap of our weekend at the Jr. YBA convention: (Part I)



On Friday, June 17 we gathered at the Sangha Hall and moved to the Hilo Hongwanji for the Opening service with ministers from Oahu, Maui and Big Island. Highlights were Bishop Eric Matsumoto's address, sutra chanting and singing "Jr YBA Nem-Bu-Tsu" the convention song. After dinner Reverend Blayne Higa led an

interactive workshop for the Jr's revolving around the theme 'What do you bring to your Community or What is your Gift.' Reverend Blayne shared his personal experiences of growing up and moving away from Hawaii during college and his reflection of how this led him back to the islands. He then asked the Jr's to go into break out groups so that the Jr's had a moment to reflect and share their thoughts with each other in a small group setting. After the evening session it was time for the Jr's to pick up their evening snacks and then back to the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel for the night.

MHBT DHARMA SCHOOL

By: Sharon Nagoshi

Happy Mother's Day was the theme for our Dharma School on May 1. The children wrote and painted special messages on jars for their moms and grandmothers. Each jar held a succulent. Mahalo to our Dharma School families who attended and participated in our monthly service and class. We will be on summer break and will resume on September 4. Have an enjoyable summer. Keep safe!



GARAGE SALE MAHALO!

Thank you for a successful Garage Sale and Bazaar! Beginning two weeks before the event, on Saturday, June 25, our hard-working volunteers began taking out and moving items from storage areas around the Temple grounds. Our Judo youth and parents, Boy Scout & Cub Scout parents and youth, and Temple friends worked tirelessly in an endless stream passing boxes from hand to hand, taking out rummage items, and carting them to the social hall. There were literally truckloads of items from clothes, to antiques, fashion wear, kitchen utensils, small appliances, furniture, odds and ends, and curios brought out from the storage areas. One would not believe how much "stuff" came out of the trailers, storage garage, and Dana House areas. Oh my! It actually took several days to remove all the items from storage. Without our amazing affiliates and volunteers we would not be able to have large garage sales as we have had throughout the years.

We faced some challenges with two years of inventory stored and needed to move items outside to tents for the first time. The weather also presented us with stormy weather and winds up to 40 mph. Our hearts sank when we arrived Wednesday morning to find two tents and a lean-to broken and bent. On the day of the sale we lost another brand new tent. Overall we lost two new tents and a new tarp. However, the weather did not prevent our loyal customers from coming to shop. It was amazing. Over one thousand shoppers showed up over the two days. Thank you!

Thank you to all the ladies and gentlemen who kept us fed throughout the two weeks, giving us sustenance to continue working from 8 to 5 each day. Thank you to the "regulars" who know just what to do, and several new people who really made a difference too! THANK YOU TO ALL.

MAHALO AND SEE YOU NEXT TIME,
The Garage Sale Crew

SUMMER GARAGE SALE / BAZAAR 2022

Here are some of the faces of hard-working members and friends that helped make this event possible. The number of manhours it took to put on this event was mind boggling. Under the management of co-chairpersons Gail and Karen, this Garage Sale was a huge success. A big MAHALO to all that came out to help for the last several weeks. A big MAHALO to all the buyers that came to support Makawao Buddhist Temple. By the way, Garage Sale opened at 7:00 a.m., the first customer came at 4:30 a.m.! *The early bird gets the worm.*







MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Council Minutes Highlights
Sunday, June 12, 2022

1. Minister's Report: Report submitted.
 - Connecting with Upcountry interfaith organization to create network of faith communities for LGBTQUIA and youth.
 - Gave orientation session about "This is Your Temple" for Boy Scout Troop 18, will teach merit badge classes for Family Life, Communications, and Movie-Making, and offered to teach classes leading to METTA Award. One Boy Scout has signed up for the Sanga Award Program.
2. Garage Sale July 2-3, 2022: Report submitted. Face masks will be provided and hand sanitizing will be available.
3. Obon July 23, 2022: Chairperson Sharon Nagoshi announced that Hatsubon Service will be held on Saturday evening, July 23. Council voted to have Obon on one day only, Saturday, July 23.
4. Anniversary Celebration October 16, 2022 for Paia 115th and Makawao 50th: Co-chairpersons are Karen Ishizu and Diane Kosaka. Photographer has been reserved and paid for with option to cancel and refund. Plaque for Bodhi tree committee will meet in July after Obon.
5. Japanese Language Instruction: Rev. Kerry reported that Ms. Tokie Ogawa is willing to teach 45-minute classes on Saturday mornings, one for beginners and one for intermediate level. No classes are planned for school-age children.
6. Website Transfer to Squarespace.com: Council voted to upgrade the trial website to Squarespace BASIC COMMERCE PLAN.
7. Repairs and Maintenance: Yagura is being refurbished by Calvin Higuchi and helpers.
8. Membership: Report submitted.
9. Funeral/Columbarium: Report submitted.
10. Dharma School: Dharma school is on summer break, will resume September 4, 2022.

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

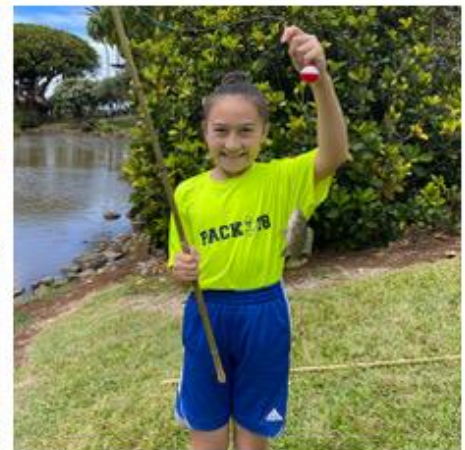
MEMBERSHIP DUES



Remember to send in your membership dues. Thank you to those who have already paid. Except for Emeritus members, you are not a sustaining member until dues are submitted.

PACK 18

In June Pack 18 had a fun fishing event at Maui Tropical Plantation. Scouts had a great time catching Tilapia, and other little critters. Just look at those smiling faces!



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

By: Sharon N.

Congratulations to Kai Thomas, Jonathan Lane, Kenneth Kosaka, and Cora Davidson. These graduates were honored on June 5 at our Bacculaureate Service. Kai and Jonathan are King Kekaulike graduates. Kenneth and Cora completed Makawao Hongwanji Preschool and will be entering kindergarten.

Wesley Kosaka was the guest reader for the service. He read "Oh, the Places You'll Go." by Dr. Seuss. This book has an inspirational message our graduates which is "the importance of seizing new opportunities, keeping an open mind, and trying new things." Best wishes to our graduates!



Kenneth (front center) and family.



Jonathan (second left) and family.



Kai in high school graduation picture.



Cora graduations from Makawao Hongwanji Preschool.

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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BISHOP'S CORNER

June 2022

“AMIDA, I choose you!”

*Address delivered by Bishop Eric Matsumoto at the Opening Service of the 65th Jr. YBA State Convention held June 17-19, 2022 on the Big Island of Hawaii at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin.



On behalf of the entire Sangha of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii from here, the Big Island to Kauai, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Hawaii Federation of Jr. Young Buddhist Associations as we gather for our 65th Jr. YBA State Convention, the first in person Convention after 2 virtual conventions.

Thank you for responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha's Great Love and Unconditional Compassion, being guided and inspired by the Dharma or Teachings and encouraging each other to continue being an integral part of the Hongwanji Sangha. At the foundation of everything is your Buddha Endowed Mind of True Entrusting/Shinjin/Faith in Amida Buddha. We owe so much to Amida Buddha who has been reaching out and calling out to us since time immemorial. As we find in the "The Teaching of Buddha" it says *"One should*

never forget that it is not because of one's own compassion that one has awakened faith (True Entrusting), but because of Buddha's compassion which long ago threw its pure light into human minds and dispelled the darkness of ignorance."

Also, as we find in the famous "Parable of the Two Rivers and the White Path," Amida Buddha calls *"...with mind that is single, with right-mindedness, come at once! I will protect you. Have no fear of plunging [in]to...the [raging] water or fire [of greed and anger]."* How amazingly wonderful and kind of Amida Buddha, don't you think?

Amida Buddha is so concerned about you and me. In fact, many people are not even aware of the raging water of greed and the raging fire of anger. Some people are aware of it, but don't know what to do and thus in deep despair and grief. According to the Parable, Sakyamuni Buddha, the Historic Buddha, is encouraging us to seek refuge in Amida Buddha's Vow, Promise, which is unconditional in its acceptance and embrace or as I like to express it All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion. Amida Buddha is calling out to each and every one of us especially to those of us who are living in these Latter Days of the Buddhist Teachings, 1) a world of wars and where natural disasters abound, 2) there is confusion of values, 3) increased anger, greed and ignorance, 4) inferior quality of human life including egotism, and 5) the wasting and shortening of human life known as the 5 defilements. Sound familiar?

This week, I just visited my primary care physician for a semi-annual check-up. I noticed that since the Pandemic started physicians are asking, regularly, if people are experiencing depression and anxiety. It's probably due to the Pandemic because of the isolation and fear that it has caused and also could be because of all the social issues like racial discrimination, political divide, wars, and gun

Continues on Page 16

violence related mass shootings and so many other incidents which maybe affecting people very negatively with fear and despair. As, I continued my discussion with my doctor, our conversation shifted to how people, in general, seem to be reacting to all these situations with such intensity and hate. It reminds of me of what is written in the Smaller Sutra about this Latter Age of the Dharma when the so called blind passions of anger, greed and ignorance greatly intensify and more. Yes, I thought, we are certainly living in such times (mappou) and how in such times, how important it is to respond to people and situations and not react. In too many instances, we react to other people and what is happening. Here is where Buddhism with its teachings of being mindful and reflecting including reflecting on oneself and especially Jodo Shinshu's emphasis on being aware of how easy it is for the "ugly" side of me to appear becomes really meaningful, important and relevant. A time, more than ever, when the Teachings of Namu Amida Butsu, become all the more appropriate and needed. However, as one source explains although it is the Last Dharma Age, "however, this typically was not a cause for despair, because this scheme was accompanied by teachings that the Buddha, having foreseen the coming of this dark age, had provided beforehand...(that) which were suitable for the time." Thus, indeed, it is the perfect age and time to, as our convention theme and slogan indicate "AMIDA, I choose you!" Jr. YBA members, thank you for choosing Amida Buddha.

However, have you ever wondered about the meaning of the 5th stanza of "Gassho to Amida" which says *"When I call Amida's Name, It's Amida calling me; Buddha's voice, my voice are one. I gassho to Amida"*? Or have you pondered why Rev. Kenryu Tsuji shared, *"Namu Amida Butsu...it is the song of gratitude not of my finding the Buddha, but Buddha finding me."* When I deeply reflect on our Convention Theme "AMIDA, I choose you!", I conclude that it is possible because Amida Buddha has already chosen you and me, actually chosen all of us! Amida Buddha initiates the call by imploring, please entrust yourself to me which is Namu Amida Butsu or the Buddha's Name Which Calls Me to entrust and I respond to the Buddha's Call by saying the same Namu Amida Butsu which is, now, Namu Amida Butsu, the Buddha's Name That I Call out in awareness, joy and gratitude. There is nothing, but Namu Amida Butsu.

Thus, as we start Convention, please reflect including self-reflect on the world and ourselves as bonbu/spiritually-foolish beings and come to realize the depth and breadth of Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion and live in full awareness and joyous appreciation of Amida Buddha's Great Love and Compassion reaching out, embracing us and nurturing us. Let's have a meaningful and fun Convention!

To slowly conclude, my gratitude to Lay Advisors of Jr. YBA especially Joy Nishida, Minister Advisors, and all other supporters of Jr. YBA for your assistance and help. A special shout of appreciation to the United Jr. YBA of Hawaii Island, this year's Convention host, especially Convention Co-Chairs Manami Alspach and Sara Igawa. Thank you to one and all!

Finally, let's recite Namu Amida Butsu, again, the Buddha's Name Which I Call in gratitude in response to Namu Amida Butsu, the Buddha's Name That Calls Me to entrust. Please join me in gassho/anjali. Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion.