



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

August 2022

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

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Resident Minister: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

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

Return Service Requested

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SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

Sunday, August 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, August 14, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, August 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, August 28, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Dharma School

Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple invites all children to participate in our Dharma School. The children will experience, learn, and relate the Buddhist teachings through stories and activities. Classes are held on the first Sunday of each month. Family service begins at 9:00 a.m. Please check our monthly newsletter, website, Facebook, or call the office (572-7229) for definite dates.

Hope to see you and your family on Sept. 4th at 9:00 a.m. Photos will be taken of the children to be part of our 50th/115th Makawao Hongwanji celebration booklet.

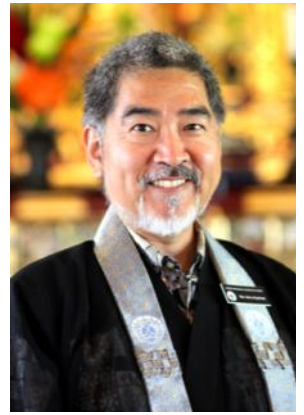
MINISTER'S MESSAGE

くえ いっしょ
「俱会一処」

“*ku e issho*” *We shall be together again.*

—*Shakyamuni Buddha*

From the Bussetsu Amida-kyo, The Sutra in Praise of Amida



Many of the customs and traditions we associate with Obon or Bon season, a Japanese Buddhist observance, are Chinese and Confucian in origin, which merged with Buddhist and native beliefs in Japan in the 4th and 5th centuries, then were imported into Hawaii with the great wave of Japanese immigration beginning 150 years ago.

The idea that the ‘spirits’ of our ancestors ‘come back’ to this world during the Obon season is derived from the Chinese “Hungry Ghost Festival,” which is also like *Dia de los Muertos* in Mexican culture and the original pagan conception of All Hallows Eve, what we know today as Halloween.

The existence of so many rituals, ceremonies, and festivals across cultures underlines the **universal human desire to remain connected to our departed loved ones**. This longing for re-connection, for a continuing spiritual relationship with our departed loved ones is universal, compelling, and powerful — and unites us all as human beings.

In Hongwanji tradition, Obon is known as The Gathering of Joy (*kangi-e*) because when we are reminded of our debt of gratitude to our departed loved ones, dear friends, and honored ancestors, we remember, we reflect, we re-connect with our feelings and memories, and we are grateful! Filled with gratitude, we dance in joy!

Here in Hawaii, we have a ‘mix plate’ of traditions for Obon. For some people, Obon is a **religious** observance, especially for families who are observing *Hatsubon* First *Bon* Memorial Service for a departed loved one. For others, Obon is a lot of **hard work to set up the yagura, lights, lanterns, the altar AND the all-important food!**; for still others, it is simply a time for **great fun** with friends Bon Dancin’ the night away, catching up with old friends, talking story, and eating ono food.

We put up ‘*chōchin*’ lanterns to welcome the ‘spirits’ of our ancestors to this world; we wear *kimono*, *yukata*, *happi* coats or t-shirts and shorts. Dedicated temple members spend days preparing mountains of food “just in case” as offerings for hungry ghosts (just kidding); to sell as a fundraiser for the temple; and staying in the kitchen is also a good excuse not to dance!

Bon Odori in traditional Japanese style has evolved into *Bon Dancin’* with modern dance moves unlike anything seen in Japan—and everyone is welcome to join in the bon dancing circle, just as they are. You don’t have to be a temple member or Buddhist or of Japanese ancestry to enjoy a Bon Dance! In Hawaii, we have exciting taiko drumming **performances**, when traditionally taiko in Japan was simply part of the music for *Bon Odori*. At Makawao Hongwanji, we are lucky to host both Zenshin Daiko and Maui Taiko for live performances!

Continues on Page 3

Finally, the 'sending away' lights to guide the spirits back to their world, like the spectacular lantern floating festival in Honolulu. We may love our ancestors but don't want them hanging around all year long!

These traditions and practices are Chinese and Japanese in origin but evolved into something new and unique in Hawaii.

Buddhists do not believe in an eternal soul, an unchanging essence that is "me," an intrinsic "self." In fact, Buddhism teaches our ego-centric attachment to the false idea of a 'self' is the cause of unnecessary suffering in this life. That is why Buddhists do not believe that spirits or ghosts of our ancestors literally come back to this world during Obon or any other time.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhists in the Hongwanji tradition do not perform rituals or hold memorial services to pray for the repose of the souls of ancestors. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we know without doubt that Amida's Great Compassion and Wisdom embraced our loved ones during their lives, assured them of birth into the Pure Land, and their return to this world in Oneness with Amida Buddha as Great Compassion and Wisdom to help guide others on the path of Nembutsu, Namu Amida Butsu. The "going to" birth into the Pure Land and "coming back" this world in Oneness with Amida Buddha as Compassion and Wisdom is all due to the working of Amida's Compassionate Vow, and has nothing to do with anything we, as utterly average human beings, could ever do in this life.

Jodo Shinshu rituals and ceremonies thus are performed for the people who are left behind, an occasion for families to come together, to remember, to reflect, to express gratitude, to truly hear the Dharma, so we may live the Teachings in our daily lives going forward.

During my year at the Hongwanji seminary in Kyoto 2017-18, I was incredibly fortunate to perform *Bon Mairi* services for 60 families over six consecutive days in 2018 during the incredibly hot and humid summer in Kyoto, riding a bicycle in my robes while desperately following the directions from the honorable Google Maps-san on my iPhone, who often got confused in the last 100 yards by the crowded and dense traditional neighborhoods of Kyoto.

I learned to chant the *Sanbujo* invocation, the *Bussetsu Amida-kyo* Sutra of the Buddha Amida, and recite a *Gobunsho* Letter in 20 minutes or less, talk story with the family and drink a cup of tea, then moving on to the next household.

After so many cups of tea, the ability to find a public toilet in Kyoto was something I became very, very good at, very, very quickly! I remember the laughter of children when they saw this *o-bō-san* park his bicycle, take off his robes and *wagesa*, disappear into the public restroom for a few moments, and emerge with a big smile of relief.

This experience of conducting *Bon Mairi* services in the homes of so many families in Kyoto helped me understand the importance and deeper meaning of ritual and ceremony in modern life. The temple members were all life-long followers of the Path of Nembutsu, so they know that *Namu Amida Butsu* is not a magical phrase that ensures their departed loved ones are born in the Pure Land — they know without doubt that it is Amida's Great Compassion, the working of the Primal Vow, the *Hongan* in Hongwanji, assures the Birth of their loved ones into the Pure Land.

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My *Bon Mairi* experience taught me that, as a priest, I am totally unskilled and have a long way to go. I visited a 98-year-old lady who chanted the *Amida-kyo* perfectly from memory at twice my speed! ***It was very humbling when she laughed quietly and slowed down in the middle of chanting so I could catch my breath!***

In Japan, the *Bon Mairi* ritual and ceremony bring renewed spiritual connection and a sense of comfort to the mothers, fathers, spouses, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, friends— the people who were left behind—because “*We shall be together again.*”

In Hawaii, we look forward to Bon Dance season every year and we celebrate local kine style: Bon Dance belongs to everyone! Bringing the ‘ohana, the family, the community together, taking a moment from our busy lives to remember, to honor the memory of our loved ones, to feel gratitude for all of our honored ancestors, to reconnect as family and as people, to talk story, to raise a glass or two of sake or beer, to laugh, and, yes, to eat mountains of foods — **re-connecting with the people in our lives right now, celebrating the joy of life together** as a family, as a community, as human beings...this is the true meaning of the Gathering of Joy, *Hatsubon*, *Obon*, and Bon Dance Makawao-style!

May your Bon Dance season be filled with aloha!

Mahalo,
Rev. Kerry

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONGRATULATIONS! JOB WELL DONE

Once again, our sangha came through the busiest July that we've had in many years. After two years of near dormancy, the council voted to proceed with our Annual Summer Garage Sale/Bazaar, Temple campus semi-annual general clean-up, and Obon, all in the month of July.

Garage Sale/Bazaar co- chairpersons Karen Ishizu and Gail Hamai got their committees to start planning over two months before the July event . The actual set up, cleaning up, and pricing, started two weeks prior to the Sale on June 18. The result was a record breaking sale. Where else can you buy a gently used shirt for \$1? They even donated a truckload full of bagged clothes to the homeless shelter after the sale.

After a week's break, we had our semi-annual temple ground general clean up, chaired by Floyd Nagoshi. There were over 50 volunteers, young and old who helped with the much needed cleanup. A delicious brunch was prepared by Carol Yamamura and her crew.

And finally, after voting, the council decided to have a one night, instead of our normal two night Obon. It was held on a beautiful July 23rd, Saturday evening. Many of you might recall that Makawao often faced several weather challenges to these events in previous years. We were rained out one year during our Obon. This year, a threatening passing hurricane and high winds knocked down several tents for our garage sale. This year mother nature smiled down on us for our Obon.



Continued From Page 4, President's Message

This year, however, we encountered several major challenges that could have ruined this year's Obon. Months earlier, the integrity of our Yagura was questioned, after sitting in the exposed Makawao weather for over two years. Calvin Higuchi and a couple helpers started what was supposed to be a small fix for the roof. But that turned out to be a major undertaking. Finally, the painting was finished only the day before the Obon by the Scouts and parents. Earlier during the week, on Tuesday, Ray Nakagawa discovered that our walk-in refrigerator had stopped cooling. After an emergency call to Gavin Isobe of A&I Refrigeration, it was discovered that the compressor had gone out. Ray Nakagawa quickly got into action and rented a refrigerated truck for the Obon. Luckily Gavin, after searching around, was able to locate a new compressor for us and came back to repair our refrigerator the next day. What service!!! Ray was able to return the truck a day earlier and save on the rental cost which would have been quite substantial.

But that was not the end of our major challenges. On the eve before the Obon it was discovered that the electrical junction box in the ground that powers the lights and PA system on the Yagura was flooded and inoperative and could result in an electrical short. To the rescue came Lyman Morikawa who had just returned from a business trip to the mainland. He temporarily repaired the electrical supply and came back to do more repairs on Sunday during the clean up. Any of those 3 major challenges could have resulted in a cancellation or major alteration of our Obon but somehow, someway, we were able to persevere and succeed. NamoAmidaButsu!

To this successful event, we owe chairperson for over 20 years, Sharon Nagoshi, her hard working committee and all of our members and friends to the temple who helped in making this a success. A lot of Arigato. Great job Sharon! We also want to thank our affiliated organizations, the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Judo, YBA and Dharma School for their help in all three events. Without them, these three events would not have been possible. I'm sure there were other speedbumps that occurred that I was not aware of, but in the end, we did it. That to me shows the dedication, loyalty and strength of our temple and its many friends. We are told many times about how it's getting harder and harder to have these events but I'm glad we continued and didn't stop. I always say, "if can, can, if no can, no can."

We now have a couple days rest and, after a brief recess, the chairpersons Diane Kosaka and Karen Ishizu have called for a resumption of the planning committee meeting for our 115th/50th Anniversary for the Paia Hongwanji/Makawao Hongwanji celebration that will be held on October 16. I'm not sure where these young, energetic ladies get their energy from, but we are grateful for them also. Stay tuned!

Mahalo to all! May you be happy and well!

Clyde



NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

IN MEMORIAM

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

Family of the **Late Mrs. Mitsuko Matsui** (93) who passed way on May 5, 2022.

Family of the **Late Mrs. Megumi Takemoto** (91) who passed way on May 13, 2022

Family of the **Late Mr. Edwin Kagehiro** (84) who passed way on July 3, 2022

August & September 2022 Memorial Anniversaries

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

1st Year Memorial Service 2021

August 07 Yukie (Kametani) Nihei

August 12 Kinuye Nihei

1st Year Memorial service 2021

September 06 Yoshito Nishikawa

September 06 Hisao Yoshizu

September 25 Ayame Kametani

3rd Year Memorial Service 2020

August - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2020

September - None

7th Year Memorial Service 2016

August 04 Jean Haruno Migita

August 13 Wallace Yoshiteru Watanabe

August 16 Myles Yukio Matsunaga

August 26 Hitoshi Yamashita

7th Year Memorial Service 2016

September 01 Agnes Tsuruko Ariyoshi

13th Year Memorial Service 2010

August 30 Leilani Michie Matsumura

13th Year Memorial Service 2010

September - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2006

August - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2006

September 11 Umeyo Kiyota

25th Year Memorial Service 1998

August 17 Hinayo Okamura

25th Year Memorial Service 1998

September - None

33rd Year Memorial Service 1990

August 24 Hayato Taketa

33rd Year Memorial Service 1990

September 23 Kanichi Taketa

50th Year Memorial Service 1973

August 01 Tsuruo Shishido

50th Year Memorial Service 1973

September - 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 June 22, 2022 to July 26, 2022

DONATION:

Jane Loeffler
Florence Sakae
Burton Onikama
Helen Kagehiro
N. Kanemoto



In memory of Masamitsu and Mitsuko Abe – Tokie Shishido
In memory of Shoichi and Haru Tanaka – Tokie Shishido
In memory of Tadashi Sugimura (13th year memorial) – Jerry Sugimura
In memory of Hatsuichi and Shizuko Nishiyama – Janet Okuhama
In memory of Michael and Miyoko Suda, Mizoguchi family – Mavis Suda
In memory of Roy G. Onikama and Violet H. Onikama – Burton Onikama
In memory of Yoshio and Grace Kijima – Mark Kijima
In memory of Yukio and Violet Otani, Glenn and June Otani – Roy Tanaka and family
In memory of Ed Kagehiro – Robert and Iwa Yoshioka, Andy and Betty Hirose
In memory of Chiyoko Tokuoka – Donald and Faith Ito
In memory of Ayame Kametani (Hatsubon) – Donald and Faith Ito
In memory of Unemoris – Kikuo and Peggy Honda
In memory of the Kawaharada family (Obon) – Mr. and Mrs. James Ogata
In memory of Kinuye Nihei – Clyde Suzuki
In memory of Bishop Yosemite (Obon) – Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miyamoto
In memory of Shizuko Yamamura – Ruth Yamamura
In memory of Hideo, Kazumi, Misao, Tetsuji (Obon) – Akiko Tanimoto
Garage Sale/Bazaar – Noboru Hironaka, Carol Yamamura, Anonymous

115th and 50th ANNIVERSARY DONATION:

Karen and Rogers Ishizu
Anonymous

NOKOTSUDO:

Jean Wakashige
Hilton and Maria Unemori
Marion Morikawa
In memory of Toyoma and Misao Yoshimi – Margaret Honda
In memory of Dick Fukushima – Jane Fukushima

OFUSE:

Funeral service for Edwin Kagehiro – Family of Edwin Kagehiro
Hatsubon service for Yoshito Nishikawa – Kay Nishikawa
Hatsubon service for Megumi Takemoto – Jeff Takemoto
Hatsubon service for Dick Fukushima – Jane Fukushima
25th year memorial service for Ray Yoshito Kawabe – Family of Yoshito Kawabe
13th year memorial service for Hideo Takemoto – Family of Hideo Takemoto

HISTORICAL QUOTES – WHO SAID THAT??

By: Marilyn

Do you read the newsletters? Match the Minister or Council President with the quotes below.

Rev. Fujitani, Rev. Kobata, Rev. Umitani, Rev. Kalu, Rev. Masuda, Rev. Kerry
Presidents: Clifford Tokumaru, Glenn Hamai, Michael Nakagawa, Floyd Nagoshi, Clyde Hamai

“Are you getting your calling? What in the world made me to agree to being President.”

“Be good, but not too much. Just say Mahalo.”

“From the Buddhist viewpoint all the cucumbers have its own uniqueness and they are all wonderful as they are. But supermarkets select only “good looking” cucumbers.”

“We are a Sangha because there is always an underlying awareness that the real reason this temple exists in the first place is to provide an opportunity for everyone to listen to, to experience, to taste and to become one with the Buddha Dharma.”

“As we walk the path of Nembutsu, let us meet the enemy within and change him into a friend.”

“Did you hear the one about the deaf frog without any legs? Wasn’t that funny? Another funny thing that happened was that when I asked someone to write about the Lay Convention, they all became deaf. Just Kidding.”

“May we all be happy and well. Palms together in Gassho.”

“The past week of heavy rainfall reminds me of the fragile nature of life itself and the reality that things happen because of causes and conditions that produce results, good or bad.”

“Remember the B-4 days? The outside toilet and hot furo bath. The Seniors worked so hard to pass on this temple... Just for me. How lucky we are.”

“This 2007 New Year is such a momentous one for all of us, as it marks the temple’s 100 years of spreading and sharing of the Jodo Shinshu teachings.”

“Just as dana is expressed in many ways the sharing of the Dharma is a primary function of a Sangha (Dharma ‘ohana), which is the purpose for which “we go to the Buddha for guidance.””

1974 MEMORIES – Another Successful Year of Obon and Bazaar

By Rev. Yosemite

“Obon and Bazaar are very important things in our church activities. Why are they so important? Because both Obon and Bazaar are most good opportunity for members to work together hand in hand and most good opportunity for the church to propagate our Teachings to many people. Moreover, at Makawao Hongwanji, this is good occasion for us to raise fund for our debt (Building Fund). This year through all members efforts, we could have very successful Obon & Bazaar. Again we set a new record for both occasions. Obon donation hit \$5,000 first time and we gained about \$11,000 net profit from Bazaar. Now our debt for Building Fund came down to \$57,000 and we like to pay back this debt as soon as possible”.

July 2 & 3, 2022 Plant Sale a Success

By: Sharon Higuchi

COVID-19 has changed our lives to a large extent. After two years of no in-person Garage Sales/Bazaars, MHBT opened its doors to the public. While the hugely popular second-hand items for sale in the Social Hall required that everyone be masked, for outdoor spaces such as our Plant Sale, masking was optional. However, being outdoors also meant dealing with Mother Nature's gusty winds and rains on Saturday. Despite the poor weather conditions, the public turned out and MHBT made the second most profits in the history of the Plant Sale.



This was made possible because of the plant donors who nurture plants in their own yards, sometimes for years, and those who donate pots and other related items. Mahalo to the following people: Galan Arakaki, Pam Farnsworth, Allan & Janet Fukuda, Clyde Hamai, Calvin & Sharon Higuchi, Sean Higuchi, Shigeru Karakawa, Mimy Kiyohara, Carole Mizomi, Hanna Mounce, Ray Nakagawa, Peter & Gail Nakamae, Mike Nishimoto, Warren Orikasa, Burt Sakata, Hiromi & JoAnn Tanaka, Amy Teves, Bill & Jean Uemura, and Robert & Iwa Yoshioka. Please call the office if your name has been inadvertently left out.

MHBT is also grateful to the volunteers who price each plant, load and unload the plants, put up and dismantle the tent, carry plants for the patrons, answer questions, organize the area with signs, serve as cashiers, count the money, set up the boundaries and parking lines, and obtain the necessary boxes, all with aloha: Jan, Duane and Cy Yoshizu, Amy Teves, Tommy Nishida, Carlys Higuchi, Hanna Mounce, Ray Nakagawa, and Calvin & Sharon Higuchi.

During the COVID-19 shut-down, growing plants became even more popular. People staying at home started growing plants to beautify their interior spaces and became interested in growing their own fruits & vegetables and improving their yards. Now, even while dealing with climate change and the overpopulation of deer on Maui, people find solace and joy in growing plants. MHBT is grateful for your donations which keep our temple financially stable. **Please continue to nurture plants for the next Plant Sale! Keep Maui green and beautiful.**

Maui United Jr YBA

The Maui United Jr YBA held their first ever installation ceremony and luncheon on July 10, 2022 at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission. The newly installed officers are: President: Kaylie Okuni (Makawao), Vice President: Jaimee Yokoyama (Makawao), Treasurer: Wesley Kosaka (Makawao), Secretary: Hoken Hironaka (Lahaina).

Reverend Ai Hironaka led the installation ceremony and encouraged the Jr's to continue to listen to the dharma, support the Sangha and the larger community. New member Ayumu Hironaka joined in the service. Following the ceremony the Jr's enjoyed refreshments with the Lahaina Hongwanji members in the social hall and later, a luncheon at Teddy's Burger!

Also, the Maui United Jr's helped at the Kahului Hongwanji Obon selling drinks and shaved ice on July 25, 2022. Former Jr YBA'ers Kai Okuni and Kokoro Yamazaki came by to help out as well!



PACK 18 AT MHBT OBON

It was wonderful to see Pack 18 games at our Obon again. Children as well as adults looked forward to playing and getting toys as rewards. The smiling faces were such a joy to witness as participants anxiously tried their skills at fishing and tossing. Thank you to all who supported our Pack 18! See you at next year's Obon!



OBON MEMORIES

By: Marilyn

OBON is in appreciation of our ancestors, OBON is in appreciation of the Hatsubon Families, OBON is a gathering of Makawao Hongwanji Sangha, OBON is a gathering of Sangha Ohana from far and near, OBON is music and food.

Thank you to those who put up the Yagura, Lanterns, Lights, dancing RING and benches. It wouldn't be OBON without these. The lights worked, the music was loud and clear, and young and old worked together to make it possible. Even a 60 year old can climb up to the roof and 70ish can kneel on grass to check the electric wires. But the Scout families did the most work.

We remembered those who passed away, with appreciation for all they did for their families, the community, and Makawao Hongwanji. Thank you for coming to Hatsubon, family and friends, to offer incense and remember your loved one. We appreciated seeing the four generations of Fukushima-Nakagawa families, and three generations of Otani, Kagehiro, Nakamura-Tengan families, and many two generation families. Sitting in church were our Sangha Ohana from ages 2-100 years.

Our Makawao Hongwanji Sangha worked liked "magicians" under the leadership of Rev. Kerry, Chair Sharon Nagoshi and many subcommittees to put together the MAGICAL night of the first OBON after 2 years of cancellations. The kitchen was busy, busy, busy as chow fun, bento, chili, hot dogs, sushi, spam musubi, and baked treats of all variety appeared for sale. There was also pickled peach, sanbaizuke, guava and peach jam, and fresh vegetables. The Craft Group sewing items were a hit with shoppers.

The affiliate groups set up their booths and everyone had a successful night of "selling out." Our Maui Sangha Ohana was ready to support Makawao Hongwanji again and enjoy the music and food. The weather was also "perfect", having cooled down a little from the hot daytime. We appreciate all the support from the Maui Community.

THANK YOU to everyone who came to help. President Clyde set the example with his 3 generation family, and also Higuchis, Kosakas, Nagoshis, Nishidas, Wongs, and many 2 generation families. You're never too young or old to help out.

(Sorry if I missed your family, but come again so I'll see you and remember you next time)

The Gohara sisters always come for OBON, two from Oahu. After they worked 4 hours in the kitchen, they sat on the social hall porch watching the dancing. They reminisced that in the past, their Grandmother and Mother used to sit in the same place.

Thank you, mahalo, arigato.



OBON 2022

By: Sharon Nagoshi

On behalf of Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, we would like to thank the many individuals who made this year's Obon Festival a most enjoyable and successful event. After two years of lockdown due to COVID, the festival was welcomed by so many attendees. We truly appreciate temple members and friends who volunteered countless hours of their time in preparing for this joyous celebration. We are grateful for your generous monetary and food donations.

Kudos to Rielyn Domingo, former Eagle Scout of our temple's Troop 18, who donated all of his shaved ice proceeds to our temple.

Special thanks go to Rev. Kerry, committee chairs and organizations who have stepped forward and brought new and creative ideas to the festival. Through your cooperation, contributions and willingness to give of your time to fill a need whenever it arises, we were able to carry on our traditions and embrace the true spirit of **dana**.

Again, thank you one and all.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Did you 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 have been submitted.

Thank you.



SENIOR PROGRAM

It is August already – the Bazaar/Garage Sale and Obon are done. Seniors are you ready to get together? It's happening on Thursday, August 11. Come join us for an activity, talk story, and good food. We can find out what will be happening at our temple in the next few months. All seniors are welcome to join us. See you on August 11 at the Dana House.

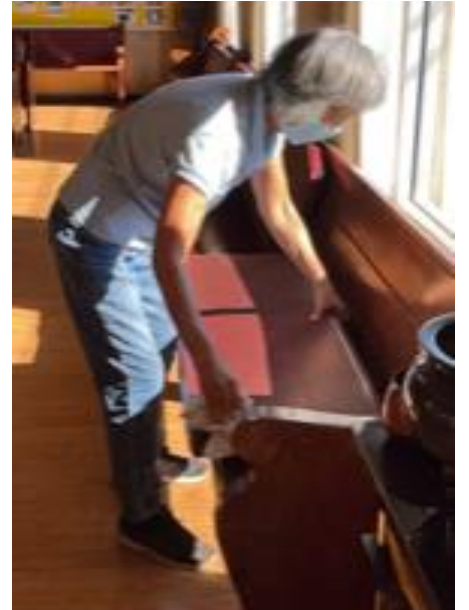


SUMMER CLEAN UP AT MHBT

Thank you all for coming out to participate in the Summer General Clean Up. You made our campus sparkling clean just in time for our Annual Obon. Thank you!



SUMMER CLEAN UP AT MHBT



MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Council Minutes Highlights
Sunday, July 10, 2022

1. Minister's Report:
 - Adam van Alderwerelt, a freelance professional video production person, performed A.V console duties for this morning's Sunday Service. Adam volunteered to livestream our Bon Dance this year. Adam is related to a temple member.
 - An Indian dance recital is applying to use our Social Hall for their event.
2. Garage Sale July 2-3, 2022: Karen Ishizu gave every one a big THANK YOU for all their hard work. Special thanks to Higuchi's for taking care of plants throughout the year. Glenn Hamai gave a special thank you to our tireless Co-Chairs Karen Ishizu and Gail Hamai. Calvin Higuchi suggested that we look at holding the Garage Sale and Bazaar in a month other than July. We already have temple clean up, Hatsubon Service and Bon Dance in July.
3. Obon July 23 2022: Sharon Nagoshi submitted Obon preparation schedule.
 - Council voted to keep Social Hall closed to visitors during Bon Dance.
 - Floyd Nagoshi will direct parking. Calvin Higuchi will paint parking stripes on grassy areas.
 - Shave ice concession will be run by Domingo, who was a member of Boy Scouts at MHM, for benefit of temple.
 - Maui Taiko will perform during the Bon Dance. Zenshin Daiko will perform during intermission.
 - KN95 face masks with our logo imprinted will be distributed at no charge.
4. Anniversary O, October 16, 2022, for Paia 115th and Makawao 50th: Planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 6:30 p.m. at temple.
5. New Website is Live: Jean Heselden and Rev. Kerry demonstrated some of the features. Please send Jean any information you would like to have posted.
6. Water Valve Replacement: Council voted to have the work done as a preventative maintenance.
7. Buddhist Education: Rev. Kerry reported on his work on classes for the Meta and Sangha awards for Scouts. Sign up forms for Japanese language instruction and scheduling classes will start soon. In November 2022, our temple will host the 2022 Maui Nembutsu Seminar. Guest speaker will be Rev. Emeritus Bob Oshita of Sacramento Church.
8. Repair & Maintenance: Many thanks to Calvin Higuchi and Cy Yoshizu for repairing our yagura.
9. Membership: Report submitted.
10. Funeral/Columbarium: Report submitted.
11. Jr. YBA: Report submitted.
12. Fundraising Options: Calvin advised that since we may lose revenues, Council should look into other revenue sources as workforce is becoming more of a an issue due to again volunteers. Glenn Hamai will look into possible options for long-range planning.

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



HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209
Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org

BISHOP'S CORNER

July 2022

“Amida Buddha’s Pure Land and A hui hou”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



In the midst of the O-Bon Season especially if you are observing your First OBon after parting with someone dear to you, I am sure you are thinking of/remembering “loved ones gone to the Other Shore (Pure Land)” to use the words of Cecilia Lindo. If tears well up in your eyes, for most of us, that is perfectly natural. You need not feel bad. However, I hope that you are not experiencing only sadness, grief and loneliness for there is also joy, hope and assurance.

In Hawaii, many times after we get together, we use the phrase A hui hou which means “Until we meet again” to say goodbye to each other. The appreciation being that, though we are saying bye to each other, it gives a sense of continued connection in that we will see each other again and thus this is only a temporary parting.

In a similar way, commonly, a phrase of the Smaller Sukhavativyuha Sutra (Amida Kyo) known as Kue issho or “will be able to meet together in one place” provides much solace, hope and continued connection between those who have lost someone and those who have passed away in that both will be able to meet in the Pure Land.

Strictly speaking, the line in the sutra says “because they will be able to meet together with such sages of supreme virtue there.” It is in response to the question, “...people who hear of that land should aspire to be born there. Why?” There is a deeper profound reason as to why we should entrust and aspire to born in Amida Buddha’s Pure Land.

Amida Buddha’s 1st Vow promises that the Pure Land and its residents are free of suffering, self-centered greed and domination by power with the 3rd Vow promising equality of one and all. The 11th Vow of the Buddha promises that all who are born in the Pure Land “dwell in the stage of the truly settled and necessarily attain nirvana” which means that all who, at the end of their life, are born in the Pure Land by the virtue of True Entrusting (Shinjin) of Amida Buddha’s 18th Vow will instantly become a great “sage.” Amida Buddha’s Great Wisdom and Compassion, is promising that we are all, with no exceptions, being promised not only peace and happiness, but also unlimited life and the great perfection. In other words, we will each be the best “I” that “I” can be. In this regard, “I” am still “I,” but at the same time not exactly the same “I” as “I” have been ultimately transformed into the most perfect and wondrous “I” that “I” can be, enlightened. Thus, though it can be sad and we may experience sadness and being lonely after a loved one’s death, when we become aware of Amida Buddha’s Great Wisdom and Compassion and what it is promising each of us, we should also feel assured that we are still connected and that a great joy and positive change awaits all of us including that we will be able to meet each other again.

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"A hui hou," is not only a greeting. This is my interpretation and understanding, but the Indigenous culture of Hawaii believes that once you meet someone you are forever connected and the probability of meeting again is high. Likewise, in Pure Land Buddhism, "Kue Issho" are not only words engraved on gravestones, but true reality where all come together again. The Pure Land is truly a compassionate realm of oneness and inclusiveness with connectivity to one and all.

Please know that the activity of Amida Buddha's Compassionate Name (Namo Amida Butsu) and Light will not cease until one and all are not only nurtured and embraced, but we become it. This is the Pure Land. Shinran Shonin describes the Pure Land as "The Land of Immeasurable Light" and "The Land of All-Knowing Wisdom."

During this O-Bon Season, as you remember your dear loved one(s) at a O-Bon Service or Bon Dance to which anyone and everyone is invited to attend, please take this opportunity being presented to you through your loved one(s) to become aware of the Great Aspiration of Amida Buddha and the world of A hui hou where we will all certainly meet again.

To conclude, let me share the entire verse/stanza of the Bon Dance Song "Joy and Peace" * mentioned above. The beat of the taiko goes boom, boom, boom And sends a message of good cheer To loved ones gone to the Other Shore Who've passed their love of Amida to us.

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom & All-Embracing Compassion

**Go to the following link <http://honpahi.link/joyandpeace> to view a video of the Bon Song (lyrics by Mrs. Cecilia Lindo) and Dance (choreographed by Mrs. Edna Muneto and danced by Ms. Estelle Araki) "Joy and Peace" created by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.*

Rev. Richard Tennes, currently serving at Kahului Hongwanji Mission as its Resident Minister, will be retiring from the active ministry of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of August 12 2022. Rev. Tennes became a kaiyoshi minister in March, 2008, and has served at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin and Kahului Hongwanji Mission.

Rev. Tennes served Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii for 14 years. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Tennes for his dedication and effort of spreading the Buddha-Dharma to our members and community. Thank you, Rev. Tennes and congratulations on your retirement.

(Ministers of Maui District Minister's Association are asked to oversee Kahului Hongwanji Mission during the absence of the resident minister.)



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

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July 23, 2022

Statement on the Right to Reproductive Freedom

We deeply lament the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, curtailing the ability of individuals especially women to make reproductive healthcare decisions for themselves.

The issue of abortion should not be seen in dualistic absolutes. The Dharma teaches us to value the preciousness of all life or existence regardless of the form. However, we also know there are various causes and conditions, some beyond the immediate control of any one individual, which factor into the personal and private decision to end a pregnancy. Thus, we should refrain from unfairly judging the decisions made by another. As such, we believe the agency of an individual should be respected and honored, as we each have the capacity to make informed and responsible decisions for ourselves based on circumstances.

Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Shin Buddhism affirmed the complexities of life and how difficult it is for us to discern the wholesome from the unwholesome. This is why we go to the Dharma (Teachings) for guidance and are unconditionally embraced by the non-discriminative Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha which surrounds one and all beyond the distinctions that our human minds may make.

The Court's decision to eliminate federal protections for abortion will deepen inequality in our country, as many individuals and communities already face inconsistent access to quality health care services. Especially at risk are Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other communities of color who will encounter worsening health and economic disparities. Women's reproductive health services should be considered basic health care.

We acknowledge the pain, fear, and hurt that so many in our country are experiencing. We will continue to support the spiritual and bodily autonomy of women and others to make informed decisions about their own reproductive health.

Guided by the Buddha's Teachings, we believe complex and difficult decisions should be made with compassion, empathy, responsibility, humility, and an understanding of an individual's sometimes extraordinary circumstances.

May we live with a vision of mutuality and act from an understanding of our profound interconnectedness with kindness and respect for all.

In Gassho,
Bishop Eric Matsumoto
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, a Shin Buddhist Denomination of Pure Land Buddhism

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
HHMH Committee on Social Concerns

www.hongwanjihawaii.com

AUGUST 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	2	3 10:00 am Monthly Service Kula Hospital	4 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	5	6
7 9:00 am Family Service First Sunday Dharma Family Service & Children's Dharma School	8 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	9	10	11 9:30 am ~ 12:30 pm Senior Prgram 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	12	13
14 9:00 am Family Service	15 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	16	17	18 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	19	20
21 9:00 am Family Service	22 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	23	24	25 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	26	27
28 9:00 am Family Service	29 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	30	31			

NamoAmidaButsu