



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

February 2023

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
Makawao, HI 96768



SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

Sunday, February 5, 9:00 a.m.
SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 12
NO FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, February 19, 9:00 a.m.
STATE DHARMA SERVICE
VIA ZOOM

Sunday, February 26, 9:00 a.m.
BUDDHA MEMORIAL SERVICE
Nehan-e

NEHAN-E, also referred to as Nehan-ko, is a Buddhist memorial service practiced in Japan and China on February 15 in the Chinese lunar calendar; it is the day when Shakyamuni entered Nirvana (died). It is celebrated in honor of the illustrious memory of Shakyamuni and repayment of a kindness.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BUDDHISM FOR THE REST OF US

"The prosperity of this school does not lie in showing off with large gatherings. If even a single person gains *shinjin*, this is a true sign of prosperity."

—Rennyō-shōnin

Rennyō Shōnin was the Eighth Monshū Chief Priest of the Hongwanji in the 15th century. Eight generations after Shinran, the Hongwanji and Jodo Shinshu had fallen on hard times: temples closing, declining numbers of followers, divergence from Shinran's teachings, and general lack of interest in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Sound familiar?

Japanese Buddhism had become a religion for the elites—aristocrats of noble birth, wealthy merchants, and priests managing massive temple complexes. Only the wealthy and powerful could be ordained as monks; and only the wealthy and powerful could contribute vast sums of money to have high priests perform elaborate rites and rituals on their behalf. **If you were a commoner, a farmer, a laborer, or untouchable, you were out of luck: the Buddhist Path was closed to you.**

Rennyō is known as the "Great Restorer" of the Hongwanji tradition. Under Rennyō's leadership, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji tradition becomes the preeminent Buddhist tradition in Japan, a position it continues to hold today. What did Rennyō do? What can we learn from Rennyō?

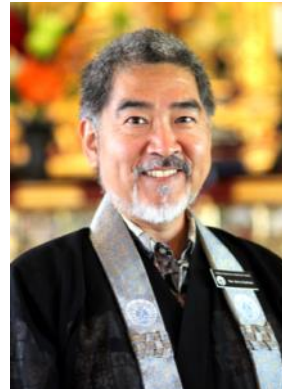
Rennyō embraced "new technologies": Rennyō clarified the true essence of Shinran's teachings in the *gobunsho* Letters distributed to and shared by followers who met in informal gatherings in people's homes, not necessarily in temples. This meant there was no need for an army of priests in fancy robes performing elaborate ceremonies in impressive temples, and no need to be literate (only a handful of commoners were literate in the 15th century). A familiar example would be the Letter on White Ashes, which is read in translation at every Hongwanji funeral and memorial service.

Rennyō shifted Hongwanji to lay-centric outreach, sharing the Dharma with the common people, and deemphasized temple-centric focus. Rennyō is renowned for his free distribution of hand-written six-character NamoAmidaButsu calligraphy as the principal object of reverence—eliminating the need for expensive golden statues or building temples.

Rennyō emphasized the importance of personal "practice". Rennyō is known for the mass printing and distribution of the *Shōshin-ge* Hymn of True Shinjin and Nembutsu, allowing common people to learn Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and "practice" on a twice-daily basis. Before Rennyō, the tradition was to sing *Ojo Raisan*—a beautiful hymn written by Master Shandao, Fifth of the Pure Land Masters. The six parts of the hymn were performed six times a day beginning at 6 a.m., then 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m., and 2 a.m. Obviously, this practice would not be possible for anyone with a family, a laborer/farmer/fisher/hunter, or the despised classes but if you were wealthy and powerful, you would make offerings to temples and priests to perform sutra chanting on their behalf, something that common people could not afford.

Rennyō built the Hongwanji into a "community of communities" by focusing on lay-driven organizations. Like Shinran before him, Rennyō insisted upon sharing the Dharma from the floor—at the same level as the audience—not from a raised platform. Rennyō constantly encouraged people to "speak out, ask questions" about their Faith of Shinjin, their Dharma. Eight generations after Shinran, Rennyō's style of sharing the Dharma makes Jodo Shinshu in the Hongwanji tradition the most widely practiced school of Buddhism in Japan, popularizing Jodo Shinshu Buddhism for the "rest of us"—common people, ordinary people, people with "busy" lives.

Continued on pg. 3...



Continued from pg. 2...

Under Rennyō's leadership, the Hongwanji becomes the dominant form of Buddhism in Japan, a position it retains today, 17 generations after Rennyō. In the 19th century—400 years after Rennyō—Jōdo Shinshū comes to Hawaii and the United States, where it becomes the dominant form of Buddhism in America. In Hawaii, plantation-era temples were the center of religion and Japanese language, culture, and community, serving as the “village” for the Japanese community. In the post-plantation era, Hongwanji temples evolve into “culture and community centers” for Japanese-Americans, slowly deemphasizing the “religion” and increasing emphasis on “traditions” and “culture”. By the year 2000, Hongwanji in Hawaii faces declining membership, temples closing, aging leadership, lack of relevance, decline of importance of “religion” in general. Sound familiar?

And this is the challenge we as the Sangha temple community at Makawao Hongwanji face in 2023. How have the values, attitudes, and lifestyle of people changed since Makawao Hongwanji opened its doors in the 1970s? What does it mean to “be Buddhist” in 2023? What is the role of a “temple” in 2023? What do you say when someone asks, “What do you believe in as a Buddhist?”

I believe we will discover the answers by looking inwards first—**what does it mean to you personally to “be Buddhist”?**

We must first (re-)discover our own personal Faith of *Shinjin* and settle our going forth to Birth in the Pure Land. Rennyō re-emphasized the centrality of *shinjin*, accepting the “entrusting heart-and-mind” which Shinran taught comes to us through the working of Amida in our lives and is the True Cause of Birth in the Pure Land.

As an organization, we must focus on the people who are the Sangha community, not the “temple” as physical assets that function as temple, columbarium, kitchen, social hall, restrooms, and parking lot.

We must reach out to people who are discriminated, disadvantaged, disenfranchised. We must share the Dharma, with the intention of building a community of communities centered upon Buddhist values of inclusion, diversity, and equality.

So, everyone is welcome to join:

Introduction to Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu: A four-part series of lectures and talk story

Thursday Evenings: 7:00 p.m. on Feb 2, 9, 16, and 23

Or Sunday Afternoons: 1:00 p.m. on Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 (same content as Thursday)

Please call Rie in the Temple Office, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, or email MakawaoHongwanji@gmail.com to sign up. The lecture and talk story sessions are free and open to the public, so invite your friends!

NamoAmidaButsu!

Rev. Kerry

Welcome New Members!

- ◆ **Susan & Alton Watanabe**
- ◆ **Kathleen and Dennis Fukushima**
- ◆ **Harriet Kitazawa**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you for your continued support in 2022 as our temple cautiously reopened and learned to adapt to what I consider the new transient normal. We showed that we are resilient as we were able to restart most of our in-person activities such as Obon Dance and service, Summer Garage/Bazaar Sale, Winter Garage Sale, making pickled peaches and sambaizuke. In addition, we observed our 50th Anniversary of Makawao Hongwanji and 115th Anniversary of Paia Hongwanji with a gala celebration and luncheon in October. These events were made possible with your support and our hardworking leadership team of volunteers. To all of you, I'd like to say Arigato for another great year.

At this time, I'd like to share some of the highlights and actions of our Board of Directors in 2022.

Our Funeral/Nokotsudo Director Sharon Nagoshi and her committee have been working very hard to rewrite and reclassify some of the policies of the Nokotsudo or Columbarium. Shortly, they will be rolling out the final version of a new Perpetual Dharma Fund. The committee also enacted the hiring of a cleaning service to maintain the Nokotsudo, work that was previously done by volunteer groups of temple members. As you know, especially since the Pandemic, many of the regular area "Ku" cleaning groups had less and less members able to continue cleaning of the Nokotsudo and Temple. But thanks to your generous donations, the Nokotsudo funds are helping with the hiring of a cleaning service at this time.

Membership Co-Directors Diane Kosaka and Sharon Higuchi have kept good accounting of our temple's membership and membership reports to Honpa Hongwanji, our temple's headquarters. They have also sent out letters reminding us of our annual membership fees, that help our temple to operate.

After having to cancel several of our major activities in the prior 2 years, Activities Director Bobbi Nakagawa helped restart many of our major activities and was glad to see most of our project leaders and supporters hard at work. We successfully undertook a new major activity in October with the celebration of our 50th Anniversary of Makawao Hongwanji, co-chaired by Karen Ishizu and Diane Kosaka. Many of our present sangha members can remember when we first broke ground for this beautiful temple that we are sitting in.

Although we still have not been able to find a director for Repair and Maintenance, necessary repairs were taken care of by volunteers or private companies. Fortunately there were no major repairs to the buildings that had to be done. But thanks to Calvin Higuchi who took charge of repairing our beautiful Yagura, which had been sitting idle for 2 years in the Makawao rains and badly in need of repairs, our Yagura was enjoyed by all at Obon.

Our beautiful temple campus was well maintained by dedicated volunteers including Ray Nakagawa, Michael Nakagawa, Floyd Nagoshi, Sydney Nako, Allison Nakagawa, Rogers Ishizu, Paul Nishida, Kevin Yokoyama, and Jo Ann Wong. I would also like to point out that on October 16, 2022, we held the dedication of our Bodhi Tree Plaque. This was spearheaded by Floyd Nagoshi who continues to take care of our historic tree, a direct descendent of the original ficus tree under which Gautama Buddha Siddhartha became the "Enlightened One".

Our council advisers Nalani Archiebeque and John Yannell regularly take our recyclables to the recycle center for the temple's benefit. If I've failed to mention some others, please know that all of your help is greatly appreciated, but these guys and gals have been regulars in keeping our landscape well maintained. We could still use more volunteers to assist if anyone is interested.

Properties Co-Directors Gail Hamai and Ray Nakagawa reported that our rentals were fully occupied throughout the year and continue to do well. The sale of our Pauwela property was closed in May. Part of the funds from the sale was used to pay down the mortgage of our rentals which will help us to pay off our mortgage sooner.

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Continued From Page 4, President's Message

Our Director of Finance Glenn Hamai and Treasurer Fred Wong have done a great job in overseeing our finances and providing timely and accurate reports. Despite poor economic conditions, we were able to end the year with a larger than projected positive income. We are trying to find more forms of passive income that require little or no manpower to maintain, as many of us are not as young and energetic like we used to be.

Under the leadership of Carol Yamamura, our hard working women of the Buddhist Women Association continued to prepare their delicious foods for our food drive-through and fund raisers. Many talk about Makawao's delicious foods thanks to our BWA women. Some of them will be headed to Japan in May to attend the BWA World convention in Kyoto.

Our Sangha members and many friends have been kept well informed every month with our Makawao Hongwanji monthly Newsletter published by editor in chief Bobbi Nakagawa and Assistant editor Gail Hamai and several volunteers who made sure that the newsletter must get to our readers even after having a computer melt down.

Jean Heselden, our efficient Board Secretary continues to display her wide knowledge of legal Secretarial skills and keeps our council well informed and documented. She also assists Reverend Kerry in providing virtual services and zoom meetings. In June, Jean and Rev. Kerry modernized the temple's website by changing to a different website host and software while keeping the original web address makawaohongwanji.org. The new website is easier to navigate and to manage, with new features such as blog entries with lots of photos for major events at the temple, and an improved online donation and payment system. Rev. Kerry and Jean share the ongoing Webmaster duties for the temple.

I am also very thankful for the work that our dedicated office Secretary Rie Taketa has done in running our temple office. As Covid restrictions were gradually lifted, Reverend Kerry was able to go on several out of town business and vacation trips and Rie was able to make sure that the temple and Nokotsudo were still made accessible by finding volunteers to open and close. Thank you to Floyd Nagoshi and Ray Nakagawa for assisting in this.

And finally, I'd like to acknowledge our hard working Reverend Kerry. We are fortunate to have the technical, business and religious guidance of Reverend Kerry Kiyohara. His technical knowledge has kept our temple members, and many others, in communication with zoom meetings, face book, virtual funeral services and zooming of our state Nembutsu seminar and Sunday Services with Barkley the Dog. He is also instrumental in helping to roll out our new Perpetual Dharma Fund. Mimy Kiyohara was also very active and continues to help our fundraising efforts with her delicious guava jams along with Allison Nakagawa's peach jams. Mimy also coordinates our Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat festivities.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our officers, directors, advisors, sangha members and our many temple friends for your great support and dedication during 2022. Working together I am very happy with how Makawao Hongwanji has provided a religious base for our members and community and look forward to a great 2023! I'd like to encourage all those who are able and who have some time, to come to temple and be an active part of the leadership of the temple in order to provide for future generations to have a place to listen to the dharma teachings and to live happy lives following the Buddhist Path.

Namo Amida Butsu

May you all be happy and well!

Clyde Hamai - President

February & March 2023 Memorial Anniversaries

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

1st Year Memorial Service 2022

February 11 Namiko Nakagawa

1st Year Memorial service 2022

March 06 Dick Teruto Fukushima

3rd Year Memorial Service 2021

February 13 Yoshio Kijima

February 16 Helen Freitas

3rd Year Memorial Service 2021

March 15 Robin Miki Tengan

March 15 Yoshiharu “Chumpy” Nakamura

March 31 Janice Yukiko Shiraki

7th Year Memorial Service 2017

February 03 June Fusako Hironaka

February 23 Narue Nitahara

February 24 Gladys Toshiko Ushijima

7th Year Memorial Service 2017

March 17 Yukio Matsui

March 26 Kiyoko Tomita

13th Year Memorial Service 2011

February 04 Edward Fubito Hirai

February 09 Hiroshi Matsui

13th Year Memorial Service 2011

March 13 Tatsue Hedani

March 21 Shizue Matoi

March 23 Teichi Yamada

March 31 Laura Masae Taketa

17th Year Memorial Service 2007

February 05 Sueko Matsunaga

February 07 Akira Hedani

February 08 Ethel Mitsue Okazaki

February 16 Yoshimi Uchiyama

February 20 Mitsie Mitsuko Abe

17th Year Memorial Service 2007

March 07 Tamie Doi

25th Year Memorial Service 1999

February 03 Tsuruo Imamura

February 07 Masami Masusako

February 14 Shizuko Hashimoto

February 15 Tamashi Sumida

25th Year Memorial Service 1999

March - None

33rd Year Memorial Service 1991

February 02 Shinichi Robert Akemoto

February 13 Kana Nakasato

February 28 Harue Yamazaki

33rd Year Memorial Service 1991

March 05 Isao Kametani

March 15 Yoshiteru Yamamura

50th Year Memorial Service 1974

February - None

50th Year Memorial Service 1974

March 17 (Baby) Bruton

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 December 26, 2022 to January 25, 2023

DONATION:

George and Janet Akemoto
Aileen Cockett
Helena Kapuniaia
Tammy Matsubara
Coconuts Travel Agency
Lyman and Marilyn Morikawa
Annette Iwahashi
Kenneth Yamamura
Pearl Rockett
Grace Komoda
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Araki
Faith Tengan
Burton Onikama
Asano Suizu
Janis Kinoshita



In memory of Frederick and Yaeko Fujimoto – Sharlene Fujimoto
In memory of Ray Yamamura – Carol Yamamura
In memory of Yoshito Takishita and the Takishita Ohana – Timmy Takishita and family
In memory of Michael Ogasawara – Iwa and Robert Yoshioka
In memory of Ruth Magarifuji (7th yr), Nadao Makimoto (7th yr) -Robert and Iwa Yoshioka
In memory of Kay Keiko Watanabe – Allen Watanabe
In honor of the Takishita family – Lynn Tanoue
In memory of M. Kawaharada family – Nancy Shimoda
In memory of Kazuo and Misao Tamura – Kenneth and Joann Tamura
In memory of Yoshio and Grace Kijima – Mark Kijima
In memory of Sueko Matsunaga (17th year memorial) – Beatrice Hara, Paul Matsunaga, Ken and Joan Kitagawa

PERPETUAL DHARMA FUND:

Rogers and Karen Ishizu

115th and 50th ANNIVERSARY DONATION:

Jean Heselden - 50th Anniversary Framed Group Photo
Doris Oshiro

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Dr. Ryan Agena

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Noboru Hironaka

HAPPY NEW YEAR DONATION:

Iwa and Robert Yoshioka
Yvonne and Toshi Kishi
Spencer and Betty Sakae
Glenn and Diane Kosaka

Continued From Page 7, Donations

Karen and Rogers Ishizu
Sharon and Floyd Nagoshi
Edwin and Mieko Kanemoto
Alma and Kenneth Nakano
Marion Morikawa
Faith and Donald Ito
Alice and George Fukushima



NOKOTSUDO:

Harold Makimoto
Gail Reiko Hamai
Alton and Susan Watanabe
Noboru Hironaka
Harold Makimoto
Marion Morikawa
Kelvin and Lynn Nakamura
George and Alice Fukushima
Dale Kawamura

In memory of Nadao Makimoto – Patsy Makimoto, Mae Balmores
In memory of Yoshiharu Nakamura and Robin Tengan – Gay Sibonga
In memory of Robert and Florence Taniguchi – Lorine and Richard Decoite
In memory of Yoshimi family – Margaret Honda

OFUSE:

17th year memorial service for James T. Tanaka – David Tanaka
17th year memorial service for Robert Taniguchi, 19th year memorial service for Florence Taniguchi – Family of Robert and Florence Taniguchi
7th year memorial service for Nadao Makimoto – Family of Nadao Makimoto
13th year memorial service for Chiyono Ito – Family of Chiyono Ito
1st year memorial service for LeRoy Shibuya – Family of LeRoy Shibuya
Funeral service for Misao Iwaishi – Family of Misao Iwaishi
Funeral service for Michael Ogasawara – Family of Michael Ogasawara
In memory of Robert and Florence Taniguchi – Charijean Watanabe and Zachary Taniguchi
In memory of Ted Taniguchi – Charijean Watanabe and Zachary Taniguchi
In memory of Chiyono Ito – Faith and Donald Ito

IN MEMORIAM



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

Family of the **Late Mrs. Misao Iwaishi** (91) who passed away on October 4, 2022.

Family of the **Late Mr. Michael Isao Ogasawara** (68) who passed away on December 13, 2022

Installation of MHBT 2023 Temple Council January 29, 2023



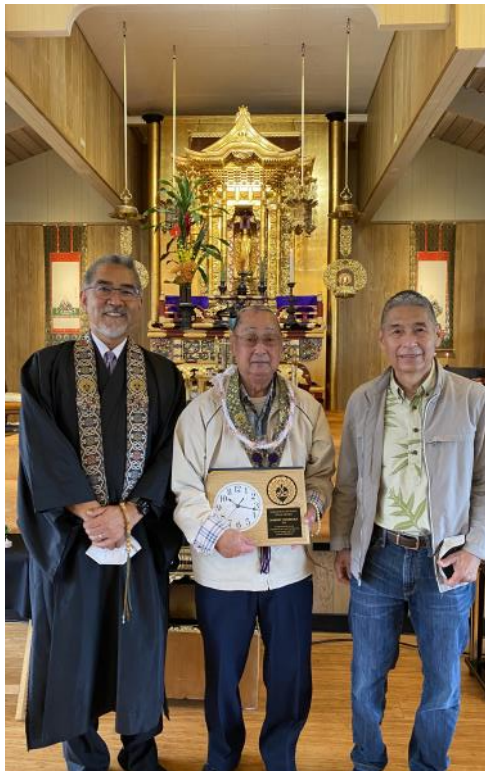
Left to right: Sharon Nagoshi, Lois Nishikawa, John Yannell, Nalani Archibeque, Robert Yoshioka, Sharon Higuchi, Calvin Higuchi, Gail Hamai, Fred Wong, Carol Yamamura, Diane Kosaka, Jean Heselden, Bobbi Nakagawa, Floyd Nagoshi, Karen Ishizu, Clyde Hamai, and Rev. Kerry Kiyohara standing on the stage.

2022 Fukunaga Dana Award Honors Robert Yoshioka

Robert Yoshioka was honored on Sunday, January 29, 2023, with the 2022 Fukunaga Dana Award presented by Mike Munekiyo of Wailuku Hongwanji. Robert is a long-time member of Makawao Hongwanji.

Robert and his wife Iwa raised their family at Makawao Hongwanji. During the award presentation, Mike described a few of the many examples of Robert's self-less giving and generosity over the years. We congratulate Robert and thank him for his self-less dedication to our sangha and temple community!

Congratulations Robert!



Japanese Language Classes at MHBT – The First Semester Ends

by Jean Heselden

In January, we completed the first semester of Japanese language classes taught by Ms. Tokie Ogawa on Saturday mornings. Tokie is a native Japanese speaker with extensive training and teaching experience in Japanese as a second language for native English speakers. The semester started in September, with interruptions for Garage Sale and other events. We finished with 5 students in the keiki beginner class, 4 students in the adult beginner class, and 3 students in the adult intermediate class. All the students were enthusiastic about how much fun it was to learn Nihongo with Tokie Sensei!

We wish Tokie good fortune as she moves to Germany to start the next chapter of her life. **Ganbatte!!** 頑張ってください!!

Japanese language classes at Makawao will start again when we find a suitable teacher. Announcements will be made in the newsletter and on the temple's website at makawao.hongwanji.org.



keiki Beginner Class



Adult Beginner Class



Adult Intermediate Class

SENIOR PROGRAM



What are the Seniors at Makawao Hongwanji doing in 2023? We are going to be reading. Our project for January was to make a book mark. You may think “how boring”, but our book marks were so cute! Ask our seniors to show you their bookmarks and how to make them too.

In February, we will be making our own pizza for lunch. Let's see if our seniors can pass the pizza test. I think we will all pass with flying colors! Please come join us for our “talk story, catch up” time to take the pizza test. Hope the pizzas are good because that will be our lunch. See you on the second Thursday of February (February 9) at the Dana House.

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Council Minutes Highlights
Sunday, January 11, 2023

1. Treasurer's Report: Report submitted.
2. Minister's Report:
 - 1) Public Address/Sound System in the Hondo: Obtained two proposals for replacing sound system in the Hondo and sound for live streaming of services. Rev. Kerry will forward proposals to Council for approval.
 - 2) Buddhist Education: Conducting merit badge classes for Citizenship in Society badge as well as Family Life badge, with 23 Scouts participating. Both badges are required for Eagle Scout rank. Also scheduling classes for Metta award for Cubs and Sangha award for Scouts.
3. Summer 2023 Garage Sale Possible Date Change: No decision has been reached yet about moving to a weekend in June rather than the first weekend in July.
4. Shinnen Enkai 2/4/2023 Bento Drive Through: Jean Heselden is keeping track of orders.
5. Hanamatsuri April 2023: This year is Makawao's turn to organize and take refreshments. No decision reached on whether we want to continue with both Hanamatsuri and Fujimatsuri. Rev. Kerry will attend planning meeting and report back.
6. Rev. Kerry will be on leave of absence April 10-24 2023.
7. Buddhist Education: Rev. Kerry will launch general introduction to Buddhism soon and it will be open to the public.
8. Membership: Report submitted.
9. Funeral/Columbarium: Report submitted.
10. Perpetual Dharma Fund: Discussion of large donations to Perpetual Dharma Fund for those not desiring a niche in the Columbarium.
11. Pauwela Cemetery: No one from our temple has checked on maintenance recently due to bad weather.
12. Upstairs 3 Bdrm.2 Ba. Rental will become available at the end of March. Looking for new tenants.
13. Dharma School: Kickoff event will be held at Ultimate Air Maui Trampoline Center.
14. No Council in the month of February.



Dharma School News

The children welcomed 2023 by making their own personal calendar with an origami rabbit. The rabbit is the Chinese lunar calendar animal for 2023. The rabbit is one of the twelve animals in the Chinese lunar calendar. The rabbit person is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in the Chinese culture. Rabbit people are believed to be vigilant, witty, quick minded, and ingenious.

On January 15th, our children joined the Wailuku and Kahului Dharma Students for a fun time at Ultimate Air Maui, (Trampoline Park). Prior to that, Rev. Kerry conducted a brief service under a tree at a nearby park. Thank you, Rev. Kerry. After, we headed to Ultimate Air. The children spent an hour of jumping and having fun. So many smiling faces and sweat.



EVERYDAY BUDDHIST

Buddhist Course Pathway—Dec 28, 2022

In the Rain, You Get Wet

Written By Rev. Jon Turner, Resident Minister of Orange Co. Buddhist Church

I would like to share with you one of my most favorite Buddhist stories. There are many like this one but this one really resonated with me. I would like to think of it as my legendary, quasi-autobiographical Buddhist journey.

There was a young boy who really wanted to learn about Buddhism. He decides to leave home to join a monastery on a faraway mountain top. He shaves his head and becomes a novice monk. He quickly finds that he has far too many chores to do. Early each morning he has to clean the altar even though it seems like it is already clean. He must offer the Buddha breakfast prior to morning service which is before even his own breakfast after service. He finds it very difficult to chant on an empty stomach.

He really wants to study Buddhism but it doesn't seem like there is much time for that. Instead, he is always cleaning, making offerings, chanting and bowing. He wishes that more of his time was spent in lecture, learning the teachings.

He prefers being led from a premise to a conclusion but his teachers seem to talk around the subject, often speak in endless riddles. He didn't know this but his teachers wanted him to intuit the conclusion. This is called circumlocution but he thought it felt like they were just *"talking in circles"*.

After a year, he was on the verge of quitting and began to complain to the head monk of his temple. He was hoping for a teaching but was instead given yet another task. It seemed like more of a punishment. The head monk needed a written message taken across town to an older, senior monk at another temple.

The young boy took the note, tucked it into his robes and went out the temple gates. He hadn't realized how far he had to walk. After two miles he was only half way there. He was not happy about this and even less so once it began to rain.

He finally made it to the temple soaking wet. He knocked on the large wooden doors and the older monk answered. The boy handed him the note, expecting a verbal response. But the older monk merely smiled and handed him yet another note. He felt like a carrier pigeon; no longer a novice monk.

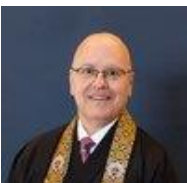
He returned to his monastery after another four-mile walk, still in the pouring rain. He made it back, looking and feeling like a wet dog. Waiting for him at the monastery doors was his head monk. He was just standing there smiling as had the senior monk. He handed him the new note. Without reading it he placed into his robes still smiling.

Our young monk finally lost his temper. He was tired, cold and soaking wet. The head monk started laughing out loud. He looked at the poor boy and said *"Why are you upset? Don't you know that when you go out into the rain, you get wet?"*

It was in that moment that the young boy had a moment of sudden insight. The Buddha Dharma had been raining down upon him all along. He had been immersed in Buddhism all along and was soaked to the bone with it. The young boy now knew what the head monk had known all along. *"When you go out into the rain, you get wet"* – and now, for the first time, the young boy could exhale and practice.

I realized from this story that just being in a Sangha and showing up for services is enough to immerse myself within the teachings. It is not so much what we learn in an academic way but rather what we realize the teachings within our bodies and intuit them with our minds. It takes no real effort. It is as easy and natural as getting wet as we walk in the rain.

In gassho, Rev Jon Turner



Rev. Jon Turner

HUGE BEATLES FAN

Resident Minister at Orange County Buddhist Church. High School athlete, UCLA mathematician, and computer programmer, who found Buddhism mid-career and changed the course of his life. Earned a Master's degree from the Institute of Buddhist Studies and was ordained as a full-time Shin Buddhist Minister at the Nishi Hongwani in Kyoto, Japan.

Spring

**Buddhist Study Center
2023 Spring Virtual Session
Saturday, March 25, 2023
10am-12pm**

“FELLOW TRAVELERS IN SHIN BUDDHISM”

Presented by Rev. Jon Turner, Orange County Buddhist Church



Let's hear about the journey of a fellow Shin Buddhist traveler, Rev. Jon Turner. Rev. Turner was introduced to Shin Buddhism when his family began attending the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) in 1999. Later he joined the Minister's Assistant Program. In 2010, Rev. Turner graduated from the Institute of Buddhist Studies at Berkeley with a master's degree in Buddhist Studies and received his Tokudo ordination. In 2017 became a fully ordained Kaikyoshi minister at OCBC.

Our founder, Shinran Shonin referred to his followers as equal companions and “fellow travelers” (Ondobo Ondogyo) in the Dharma. Shinran taught us that, without exception, we are all “brothers and sisters” embraced by Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion.

The program will explore this unique Shin Buddhist understanding that developed from Shinran's life experience as a monk and then a lay teacher. We urge all Jodo Shinshu followers (ministers and members) to become fellow travelers and listeners of the Buddha-Dharma.

Everyone is Welcome! Register online at: <https://forms.gle/CvXJCZhsKe4Gguv17>

Or, fill in form below & mail to the BSC. Please register by **Saturday, March 18, 2023.**

Donations Welcome: All gifts received will be donated to the BSC & go toward furthering Buddhist education. Give online at <http://bit.ly/hhmhdonate> Or, checks can be made payable & mailed to the Buddhist Study Center. **Questions?** Call the BSC office at (808) 973-6555.



~ Registration Form for 2023 BSC Spring Session ~

Name: _____ Temple (if applicable): _____

Email/Phone: _____

Mail to: Buddhist Study Center • 1436 University Ave. Honolulu, HI 96822

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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

2023 HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII THEME AND SLOGAN

We are in the fourth year of our five-year theme: “Building Healthy Sanghas” with our slogan for 2023 being “Sharing Joy Together.”

2020: Building Healthy Sanghas: Embracing Generosity and Openness

2021: Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect

2022: Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others

2023: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together

2024: Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

According to the *Dhammapada*, “To live a single day and hear a good teaching is better than to live a hundred years without knowing such a teaching.” strikes a deep chord when I read His Eminence Kojun Ohtani’s *Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching*,

“Namo Amida Butsu.

‘Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are.’

This is the calling voice of Amida.

My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha’s awakening,

So the Buddha calls to me ‘I will liberate you just as you are.’

Gratefully responding to the Buddha’s call, I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.

And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

Living with the Dharma as my guide

Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,

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

Sharing in the joy and sadness of others, I shall strive to live each day to its fullest”.

The deep joy that I experience of being accepted as I am and forever embraced by Amida Buddha’s all-inclusive Wisdom and all-embracing Compassion sustains me through thick and thin and, naturally, there arises the wish that others too, can come to know and experience this joy and happiness. I nod in acknowledgement of the saying “Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.”

More than ever, let us continue to live the Nembutsu by responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha by “Sharing (the) Joy (of Namo Amida Butsu) Together” by talking about Amida Buddha to others and reciting Namo Amida Butsu making manifest the saying “As the light of a small candle will spread from one to another in succession, so the light of Buddha’s compassion will pass on from one mind to another endlessly.”

Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Buddhist Study Center Interim Director, Office of Buddhist Education, and the HHMH Commission on Buddhist Education

STATE JR. YBA WINTER FEDERATION MEETING HOSTED ON MAUI

By Jaimee Yokoyama

Our JR YBA Winter Federation meeting was held on January 15-16, 2023. On Sunday afternoon, after everyone from the Big Island, Oahu, and Honolulu Jr. YBA's gathered at Kahului Hongwanji Temple, we made our way to Lahaina Hongwanji to get settled in and to also have an opening service. We then had our Federation meeting after dinner which went very well. We then had some free time to play some games and to bond before *lights out*. The next morning we woke up early to head to Lahaina Jodo Mission for a tour of the temple and to see the Big Buddha, the Pagoda, large bell and the inside of the temple. After our tour of the temple we went to the beach to have some fun for a few hours. We then headed back to Lahaina Hongwanji to clean up a little and to take a walking tour around Front Street where we ate a delicious lunch. We then left Lahaina and said goodbye to our friends from the other islands. I would say that the Winter Federation Meeting was a success.





Rise and shine! Early morning visit to Lahaina Jodo Mission for a temple tour and fun at the beach fronting the temple.



January Activities

2023



Left - Sierra Kosaka emcees first Sunday Family Dharma Service on Jan. 8. Above- January birthdays are celebrated. (Ages vary from 6 plus.)

Honolulu Jr. YBA pays a surprise visit to Makawao Hongwanji



January 15, 2023

Pictured L—R are: Alisa Kondo, (Advisor), Riho Umitani, Jaimee Yokoyama, Brady Blum, Kaya Blum, Karli Koyanagi (United Jr. YBA Honolulu President), Emma Fujikawa, and Joy Nishida (Advisor)

Membership Information

From the Membership Committee

Dear Makawao Hongwanji Members and Friends,

Recently it has come to our attention that there might be some confusion regarding the definition of “Sustaining Membership” at Makawao Hongwanji. Some people may not be aware that in order to be considered an “official” sustaining member of Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, one must fill out a Membership Form and pay annual dues. The membership form is printed on the next page for your convenience.

For your information and clarification, membership will be counted by family units as defined below, each counting as one (1) family unit:

Two persons joined in marriage or civil union and their legal dependent(s)

A single parent and his/her legal dependent(s)

A single adult

Dues-paying members (family units), also called **Sustaining Members**, shall be the governing body of our temple and the general management and direction of the temple shall be vested in the Sustaining Members. These members who are willing and able to assist the temple financially, have voting rights at general membership meetings. **Emeritus Members** are long time members who, because of age, disability, or financial situation, are not able to or are having difficulty with payment of the annual dues. No dues are required for Emeritus Members and they are entitled to all Sustaining Member benefits

The annual dues for Sustaining Members (family unit) is \$300 for 2023, due by September 7, 2023. Together with the fundraisers, donations, and dana from members and friends, your membership dues are vital to sustaining our temple and its programs. Financial contributions pay for the day-to-day operations of our temple, assessment to Honpa, utilities, insurance, minister’s salary, secretary’s salary, office supplies, temple repairs, temple activities, Dharma School, newsletter, etc. The complete budget is available at the temple office.

Membership Benefits

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, our greatest benefit is the gift of the Teachings (Dharma) and the opportunity to live a life of Nembutsu, peace, compassion, gratitude. Additionally, as a Sustaining Member, these other benefits are available to you:

Immediate access to ministerial services

Voting rights at general membership meetings

Opportunity to be a part of administrative management

Monthly newsletter

Honpa Hongwanji Mission calendar (please request calendar on Update Form)

Priority enrollment of your child at Makawao Hongwanji Preschool (member at least 2 years)

Use of facilities

Discounted fees for temple services and ceremonies

Opportunity to reserve a niche in the columbarium

Renewing your membership expresses your confidence in and commitment to Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. We ask and thank you for your continuing support. Please complete and return the enclosed Membership Update Form.

In Gassho— The Membership Committee

2023 MAKAWAO HONGWANJI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please complete and return this form to Makawao Hongwanji, P.O. Box 188, Makawao, HI 96768

Check:

New member Name _____

Membership renewal Name _____

I would like to receive **NEXT** year's Honpa Hongwanji Calendar (pick up calendar at office in Dec.)

Please remove my name from your **Membership List**. Name _____

Please update your family's information below. We would like to keep our membership demographics as accurate and current as possible. IF NO CHANGES, CHECK THIS BOX

	Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Comments
Head of Household				
Spouse				
Dependent child				
Dependent child				
Dependent child				
Dependent child				

Mailing address: _____ Phone: _____
 _____ Cell: _____ Email _____

How can we improve our temple and its programs? Use the back of this sheet for your ideas.

 **

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES **Payment BEFORE SEPT. 7, 2023 would be appreciated.**
 (If you have already paid your dues for this year, please disregard this section)

The annual membership dues for Makawao Hongwanji is (but not limited to) \$300 per family.
 Please make checks payable to Makawao Hongwanji Mission.
 Payment method: In full Monthly Other _____
 Amount enclosed: _____

(Please check if applicable) **EMERITUS member**--long time member who, because of age, disability, or financial hardship, is having difficulty paying annual dues. No dues required and entitled to all sustaining member benefits.
Name of emeritus member(s) _____
 Contact name, relationship, phone number and/or email: _____

BWA (Buddhist Women's Association) Membership Dues
 The annual dues for BWA members are \$25. Make **separate** check payable to **Makawao Hongwanji BWA**.
 I am a member Not yet a member, but would like to join.

Name _____ Amount enclosed: _____
 (form rev. 1-22-20)

February 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			10:00 am Monthly Service Kula Hospital	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo		10:00 am ~ 1:00 pm *Drive-thru Bento pick-up Time.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am First Sunday Dharma Family Service & Scout Sunday	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo			9:30 am ~ 12:00 pm Senior Program 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	(2/9) State Ministers Association Meeting	(2/10~ 2/11) Legislative Assmby
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NO Family Service (Rev. @ Kahului Hongwanji)	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo			6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am State Dharma Service (Via Zoom)	Office Closed *President's Day			6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo		
26	27	28				
9:00 am Family Service Buddha Memorial Service Nehan-e	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo					

