



# Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

March 2023

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Resident Minister: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara

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

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## SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

Sunday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.  
FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE  
MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE  
DHARMA SCHOOL

Sunday, March 12, 9:00 a.m.  
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, March 19, 9:00 a.m.  
SPRING OHIGAN (EQUINOX) SERVICE

Sunday, 26, 9:00 a.m.  
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

## SPRING OHIGAN



Twice a year in the Spring and the Fall, Jodo Shinshu Buddhists gather to welcome in a new season. The celebration is called *Ohigan* which literally means the Other Shore. This is the time to reflect on and be grateful for all that we have received from others.

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### What Gets ME Up in the Morning?

The typical answer to this question is often intended to be inspirational, positive, a profound truth we tend to overlook and often take for granted.

*The opportunity to help others gets me up in the morning!*

Or something like,

*Feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, changing the world, that's what gets me up in the morning!*

In my case, however, the answer most mornings is,

*I need to make shi-shi.*

The Truth of Impermanence manifests in many ways, as one rounds the curve on “old” age. Namo Amida Butsu!

In the headline I deliberately capitalized “me” as **ME** to represent ME = My Ego-Self, the attitude “It’s about me!”—my clinging attachment to the self-centered, ego-centric worldview that Shakyamuni Buddha taught was the fundamental cause of human suffering.

The need to be perceived by others as wise, inspiring, passionate, a “good” Buddhist minister, son, spouse, father, grandfather, etc., drives much of the “inspiring quotes” one finds on social media.

In fact, advertising research demonstrates repeatedly that how we think others perceive us drives purchase decisions much more than specific product benefits.

Ever notice how in shampoo ads, it’s always the female friends of the female protagonist who notice and flatter, “Your hair is so shiny and manageable!” That perceived validation by peers is actually what sells shampoo, not the science, ingredients, or fancy branding. Thus, how we think others perceive us is the most powerful driver of human behavior. Our thoughts, words, and actions are driven by this delusion.

So, what gets ME (my ego-self) up in the morning? The arrogant belief that I am actually capable of helping people? *I can't help myself, much less others.*

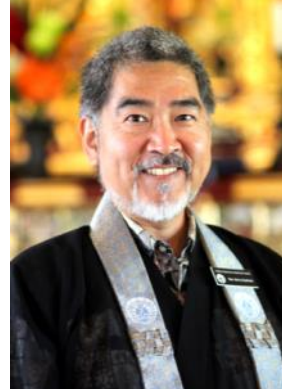
As a minister, “I live to share the Dharma!” sounds pretty cool but *really*?

Or narcissistic arrogance that proclaims, “I, alone, can fix this” then selfishly takes “no responsibility for anything” and blames others.

Or is it the need to make shi-shi?

The Truth is all of the above, of course! Because I am ME. My Ego is ME. The real me is full of ME.

Thus, the traditional monastic path of renunciation, total commitment and discipline, the path of self-power practice, as taught by Shakyamuni Buddha, offers no hope for me, stubbornly selfish ME, for I am karma’s fool! Which is precisely why Amida’s Compassion embraces me, Amida’s Wisdom guides me, and how Amida saves me from myself—because I am karma’s fool.



*Continues on Page 3*

So, really, what gets me up in the morning? **The absolute reality that I am not dead.** Not waking up dead is not a decision I get to make, not something in my power, no matter how hard I try. Not waking up dead is a karmic consequence of countless inter-connected and inter-dependent causes and conditions, situations, events, people, living beings, and all forms of life, everything that forms what our limited human brains can perceive as reality. What gets me up in the morning is Amida, the Buddha- Dharma, the absolute Truth, that I am not dead on this particular day. It is only if I wake up not dead, that I have a choice about what I'm going to do next.

Tomorrow, if you wake up not dead, pause, take a deep breath, and say, **“Namo Amida Butsu! I'm alive, I'm alive, thank Amida, I'm alive!”** Or you can just say Namo Amida Butsu. Because when you just say Namo Amida Butsu, you will experience each new day as a series of new moments in your unrepeatable life, as a new you, filled with real joy and true gratitude, awakening this day to a new world filled with endless beauty and wonderful encounters.

Namo Amida Butsu! May your day be filled with aloha!

**Rev. Kerry**

*(This essay was originally published in the temple newsletter November 2020 and is re-published here because Rev. Kerry was lazy this month. Actually, Rev. Kerry can't seem to shake a cold/flu/non-COVID virus!)*

**Makawao Hongwanji Saturday Japanese School is Back!**

We are delighted to announce Makawao Hongwanji Saturday Japanese School is back in action with our new instructor, *Sensei* Yuko Sakata-Wheelock.

Born and raised in Japan, *Yuko-sensei* previously taught Japanese at adult schools for the County of Maui, worked as a flight attendant, and is a licensed real estate agent. *Yuko-sensei* hopes to contribute to the greater Maui community by sharing her love of Japanese language and culture.

**CLASS SCHEDULE: March-April-May 2023**

<b>Saturdays</b>	8:30 a.m.	Beginner Kids
	9:30 a.m.	Beginner/Intermediate Adults
	10:30 a.m.	Advanced

March 11	March 18	March 25		
April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
May 6	May 13			



**TO SIGN UP** Call Rie in the Temple Office (808) 572-7229, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or Send an email to [makawaohongwanji@gmail.com](mailto:makawaohongwanji@gmail.com) or Sign-up online <https://www.makawaohongwanji.org/sign-up>

**REGISTRATION FEE** **\$25 (per semester)**  
Please make checks payable to: Makawao Hongwanji Mission / Memo: J-school Reg Fee or Pay Online: <https://www.makawaohongwanji.org/checkout/donate?donatePageId=631fd4c46539dc19be80c2ad>

**PER CLASS FEE** **\$ 5 (ten classes = one semester)**  
Please make checks payable to: Makawao Hongwanji Mission / Memo: J-school Class Fee or Pay Online: <https://www.makawaohongwanji.org/checkout/donate?donatePageId=631fd7a34ef6b77f30aad8e8>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW NEXT BISHOP!

Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani, who was Makawao Hongwanji's resident minister from 2005-2011, will be the next Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Many of us at Makawao remember the 5 years that Reverend Umitani, his wife Yoshiko and daughters Naho and Riho spent with us. Naho and Riho (who was born here in Maui), had many Makawao grandma, grandpas, uncles and aunties.

In 2016, thanks to Reverend Umitani, my wife Gail and I were very fortunate to be able to go to Kyoto with his tour and to attend the Commemoration Celebration of the new Monshu Kojun Otani. Reverend Umitani and Reverend Takahashi were the Hawaii leaders of our group. It was certainly a memorable and inspiring tour of Honzan and many historical temples in Japan. Our tour was made even more special as we were able to visit Yoshiko's parent's temple, Honsuji Temple. Both Reverend Umitani and Yoshiko come from family temples in Japan. We at Makawao Hongwanji feel very fortunate to have enjoyed the Buddhist teachings shared by Reverend Umitani during his time at Makawao and wish him the best as our new Bishop.

May you all be happy and well.

*Clyde Hamai*

### CONFIRMATION OF NEW BISHOP

Reverend Toshiyuki Umitani, the Resident Minister of Moiliili Hongwanji Mission was confirmed as the 17<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at the 111<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Bishop-elect Rev. Umitani will officially assume the Office of the Bishop effective July 1, 2023.



### MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE Council Minutes Highlights



Council did not meet in month of February 2023. Next meeting will be March 12, 2023.

## March & April 2023 Memorial Anniversaries

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

### 1st Year Memorial Service 2022

March 06 Dick Teruto Fukushima

### 1st Year Memorial service 2022

April 02 Chiyoko Joan Tokuoka

April 04 Betsy Chieko Matsumura

### 3rd Year Memorial Service 2021

March 15 Robin Miki Tengan

March 15 Yoshiharu “Chumpy” Nakamura

March 31 Janice Yukiko Shiraki

### 3rd Year Memorial Service 2021

April - None

### 7th Year Memorial Service 2017

March 17 Yukio Matsui

March 26 Kiyoko Tomita

### 7th Year Memorial Service 2017

April - None

### 13th Year Memorial Service 2011

March 13 Tatsue Hedani

March 21 Shizue Matoi

March 23 Teichi Yamada

March 31 Laura Masae Taketa

### 13th Year Memorial Service 2011

April - None

### 17th Year Memorial Service 2007

March 07 Tamie Doi

### 17th Year Memorial Service 2007

April 05 Sam Katsuto Morikawa

April 19 George Tsutomu Ito

April 28 Judy Megumi Tadakuma

### 25th Year Memorial Service 1999

March - None

### 25th Year Memorial Service 1999

April 16 Harumi Kawaharada

April 28 Tsurue Kawahara

### 33rd Year Memorial Service 1991

March 05 Isao Kametani

March 15 Yoshiteru Yamamura

### 33rd Year Memorial Service 1991

April 10 Masao Itamura

April 18 Kiyoshi Steven Tateyama

April 19 Katsuto Mizoguchi

April 22 Fumi Yamanake

April 29 Tokiyo Hiromoto

### 50th Year Memorial Service 1974

March 17 (Baby) Bruton

March 25 Yosuke Tanaka

### 50th Year Memorial Service 1974

April 22 Genichi Kajiya

***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 January 26, 2023 to February 25, 2023**

**DONATION:**

Jean Wakashige  
Elaine Tanaka  
Kay Ogasawara  
Burton Onikama  
Glenn Hamai

In memory of Jason M. Kawahara (7<sup>th</sup> year memorial) – Joan Kawahara and family

In memory of Yoshio Kijima (3<sup>rd</sup> year memorial), Masami Masusako ( 25<sup>th</sup> year memorial) – Robert and Iwa Yoshioka

In memory of Edward Hirai – Theodine Hirai

In memory of Isao Kametani (father), Jason Mitsuaki Kawahara (nephew), Hiroshi Matsui (uncle), Masaya Kametani (uncle), Chiyono Ito (Aunty) – Kay Ogasawara

In memory of Masami Masusako – Edwin and Mieko Kanemoto

In memory of Hatsuichi and Shizuko Nishiyama – Nora Nishiyama

In memory of Hyozo and Namiko Noda – Hiroko Noda

In memory of Violet H. Onikama – Mr. and Mrs. Burton Onikama

In memory of Gladys Ushijima (7<sup>th</sup> year memorial) – Gail Iwamoto and Ronald Hamai

Ho-on-ko donation – Noboru Hironaka, Floyd and Sharon Nagoshi, Jean Heselden, Clyde and Gail Hamai

**SHINNEN ENKAI, NEW YEAR DRIVE-THRU:**

Allen and Janet Fukuda, Rogers and Karen Ishizu, Calvin and Sharon Higuchi,

Douglas and Harriet Toyama, Diane and Sidney Nako

**NEMBUTSU SEMINAR**

Van K. Shimizu

**NOKOTSUDO:**

In memory of Tamaho and Kikue Oda, Kakusuke and Sen Matsui, Masato and Dorothy Matsui – Paul and Mae Matsui and ohana

In memory of Mabel Morikawa Ikemoto – Don and Colleen Ikemoto

In memory of Tagawa family – Richard and Amy Blue

In memory of Yoshio Kijima (3<sup>rd</sup> year memorial) – Mark Kijima

In memory of Kawahara, Wataru, Fujimoto families – Mrs. Paul Sakuma

**OFUSE:**

Bedside service for Joe Takahashi – Family of Joe Takashashi

1<sup>st</sup> year memorial service for Namiko Nakagawa – Family of Namiko Nakagawa

13<sup>th</sup> year memorial service for Tatsue Hedani, 17<sup>th</sup> year memorial service for Akira Hedani – Family of Akira and Tatsue Hedani

7<sup>th</sup> year memorial service for June Fusako Hironaka – Family of June Fusako Hironaka

In memory of Namiko Nakagawa – Elaine and Michael Randall, Yokouchi Ohana, Anonymous, Jane Fukushima

In memory of June Fusako Hironaka – Guy Hironaka, Masami and Catherine Hironaka

**NEWSLETTER:**

Shirley Takahashi

**THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING:** \$65.95

## SENIOR PROGRAM

By: Alison

In February the seniors experienced creating their own pizza. We sure enjoyed making pizza even though it was totally messy. We coaxed the dough to take the shape of the pan (not an easy task) and layered our choice of toppings on the pizza crust and baked! The Dana House smelled so good. Everyone had different combinations of toppings and everyone's pizza tasted great!

Come join us on the 2nd Thursday of March (March 9) when we will be making cinnamon rolls. Jean Nishida will be leading us in this adventure. Have you made cinnamon rolls? Jean's cinnamon rolls are wonderful and delicious! Wouldn't you like to join us so you can make your own cinnamon rolls at home for your family? Remember, 2nd Thursday in March. See



L-R Karen, Alison, Iwa, Betty and Sharon



### Hanamatsuri

#### April 9, 2023 – Central Maui Celebration

Wailuku Hongwanji will be the site of the Central Maui Hanamatsuri Association's Celebration this year, on Sunday April 9, 2023. Sunday Service starts at 9:00 a.m., followed by games, entertainment, and refreshments. Our temple family, including Cub Pack 18, Scout Troop 18, and Judo Club, are all invited. Makawao will not have a Sunday Service that day.

Please RSVP by March 17<sup>th</sup> by using the sign-up sheet in the temple office, or phoning the temple office at (808)572-7229 during office hours M - F, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please leave a message after hours.

We look forward to seeing you as we honor the birth of the baby Shakyamuni Buddha in Lumbini Garden.

## SCOUT SUNDAY AT MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE - February 5, 2023

Troop and Cub Pack 18 had a busy, fun filled month! Scout Sunday began with the raising of the flags at the front of Makawao Hongwanji Temple alongside the statue of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Japan. The emcee's for the program were Brevan Nishimitsu and Elias de Jesus. They did a great job! The guest speaker for the service was Dr. David Tanaka, a social studies/history teacher at Kalama Intermediate. The former Eagle Scout of Troop 18 shared his fond memories of learning life skills in scouting and especially having fun times while learning survival skills at Camp Maluhia. Dr. Tanaka also shared how skills like knot tying helped him earn money during his stints working on fishing boats in Alaska during summer breaks.



Following the religious service with Reverend Kerry, the scouts, their families, and temple members enjoyed fellowship and delicious food in the social hall! All the food, drinks, table service, and fun skits were provided by the scouts.

The cub scouts held their award presentation for achievements in the Pack. Congratulations Pack 18 Cubs!!! Later, the Troop celebrated Assistant Scout Master, Glen Kitagawa for receiving the District Merit of Honor for his volunteerism. Later that same night, the boys bonded during a camp out inside the social hall. It was quite a day!

Thank you Troop & Pack 18 for being such great citizens of our community!



### CUBS AND WEBELOS EARN AWARDS





# SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

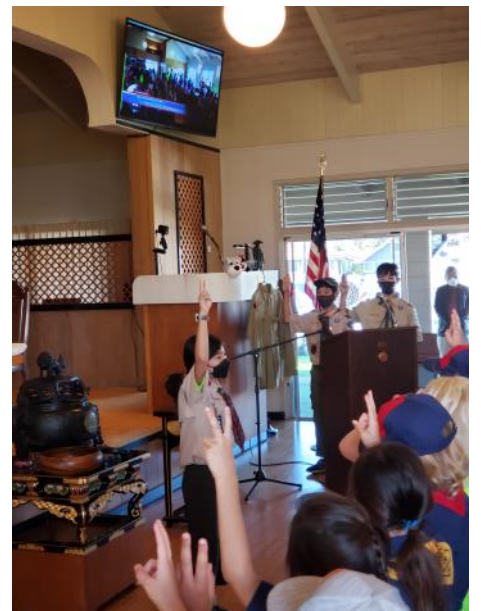


*Cub Scouts at attention!*

*Dr. David Tanaka addresses the Scouts.*



*Rev. Kerry shares Dharma message and receives flowers from Scouts.*



## SHINNENKAI BENTO DRIVE THROUGH, FEBRUARY 4, 2023



Shinnenkai Drive-Thru: Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make and distribute over 200 bentos in celebration of the Shinnenkai at Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Participants also received beautiful luggage tags made by the ladies of Jean's Sewing Club.

### **It's All About the Joy of Working Together** - By: Karen Ishizu

Thank you volunteers! A great big shout-out to those who volunteered to help with the Shinnenkai Drive Through on February 4, 2023. The planning and the preparation took several days. However, as a team, we got things done in a celebratory fashion with smiles on our faces. Some would say, "I only helped a little bit," but whether you spent days to help or just a few hours, we appreciate you very much.

There are many opportunities to volunteer. Keep an eye out for our newsletters to read about events happening at church. For example: Summer Garage Sale/Bazaar and Winter Garage Sale. We also have church cleanups twice a year, Obon, and Senior Fair. There's always a place for more volunteers. Come out and let's "share the joy together."



*Florence Sakae celebrating her 105 birthday in February!*



Mahalo to Sky Kinser, resident of Kula Hospital, who gifted the temple with another lovely painting, "Harmony", in gratitude for the monthly Buddhist Service officiated by Rev. Kerry. Sky attends every service and looks forward to completing his rehabilitation so he can join services at the temple!

## Legislative Assembly 2023

By Jean Heselden

Held on February 10-11<sup>th</sup>, as a hybrid meeting in-person at Honpa Headquarters in Honolulu and via Zoom, the meeting was attended by delegates Carol Yamamura via Zoom and Jean Heselden in person, Rev. Kerry Kiyohara in person, and observers Sharon Higuchi, Gail Hamai, and Clyde Hamai via Zoom. Congratulations to Carol who will be the Secretary of the Board of Directors for 2023. Dr. Warren Tamamoto will serve another term as Board President.

Highlights from the meeting include confirmation of Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani as the next Bishop of HHMH and approval of the following measures in order of voting.

1. Triple Celebration in 2024 of the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu teachings, and the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of HHMH, culminating in a Kyodan-wide event in September 2024.
2. Consolidated list of condolences and appreciation.
3. 2023 Budget approved with a Communications Coordinator position added to HHMH staff in Honolulu.

During the Friday morning Opening Service, Rev. Kerry read in English the message from Bishop Chiko Iwagami the Governor General of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto.

Representing the Federation of Jr. YBA, Kaylie Okuni and Jaimee Yokoyama participated in an update on Jr. YBA activities of the past year during the Saturday morning session.

The Aloha Luncheon for 48<sup>th</sup> Living Treasures of Hawaii Recognition Program was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village hotel and was attended by Makawao's in person representatives.



Working session of Legislative Assembly



Rev. Kiyohara delivering message from Bishop Iwagami

# 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

Recently we read Pieper Toyama's article on Jikoen Hongwanji's website entitled "Reverend Shigeaki Fujitani Shares the Creative Process of Preparing Dharma Messages." We decided to share this Dharma message that was delivered at Makawao Hongwanji by Rev. Fujitani on 2/27/2000 when he was our resident minister.

## Charlotte's Web

A word can be powerful because of the meaning it has for the people. The story of Charlotte's Web teaches us this lesson. Charlotte was a spider who lived with her barnyard friends on Mr. Zuckerman's Farm. Her best friend was Wilbur the pig who was growing bigger as any pig would. The sheep noticed Wilbur getting bigger and told him, "I don't like to spread bad news but, they're fattening you up because they're going to have you for dinner." So, Wilbur the pig went around screaming, "I don't want to die! Save me, somebody! Save me!"

Charlotte, the spider, being very sympathetic and also very smart, decided to help Wilbur. She thought and thought about it, and finally decided what she had to do. One night, in the barn, up above where Wilbur lay fast asleep, Charlotte spent many hours weaving a web which was something different. Next morning when the farm hand came to feed Wilbur, he saw the words "SOME PIG" written in block letters in the center of the web that Charlotte had woven. He couldn't believe his eyes. He called Mr. Zuckerman to see the words "SOME PIG" and they both trembled and became frightened.

Mr. Zuckerman went back to his home and told his wife, "A sign has occurred here on earth, right in our farm, and we have no ordinary pig." Secrets are hard to keep and people from miles around came to look at Wilbur and to read the words on Charlotte's web.

Next, Charlotte weaved the word "TERRIFIC." It created another miracle and Mrs. Zuckerman called the newspaper to tell what happened. Mr. Zuckerman ordered his farm hand to have clean, bright straw everyday for Wilbur's bedding. Charlotte next wrote the word "RADIANT" and Wilbur really looked radiant, just as much as he looked when he stood under the word "TERRIFIC."

Mr. Zuckerman just had to enter Wilbur in the County Fair contest because his distinguished pig's fame had spread to the far corners of the earth. Charlotte wrote the "HUMBLE" over his cage at the fair and to no one's surprise, Wilbur won the first prize blue ribbon. Everyone believed that Wilbur was not an ordinary pig anymore and Mr. Zuckerman took good care of Wilbur the rest of his days and nobody forgot the miracle of the web.

This story tells of the power of words and how positive words can help make life positive and negative words can cause hurt and suffering. This is why we recite The Golden Chain of Love.

NAMOAMIDABUTSU is a powerful positive word. Not only for just one animal or just one person, but for all animals and all people. Even if someone says, "I'm not terrific or I'm not radiant", NAMOAMIDABUTSU tells us, "You are precious just as you are." Wake up to what is true and real within your heart. NAMOAMIDABUTSU affirms us just as we are. As Ty Unno says, "The fundamental purpose of the Name, Namoamidabutsu, is awakening to the incomparable worth of this unrepeatable life, this limited, finite life that is inseparable from boundless, infinite life."

Let us close with the following passage...

The Buddha is wherever NAMOAMIDABUTSU is recited.

Your voice is that of your oyasama (i.e. Amida Buddha).

NAMOAMIDABUTSU is the Buddha.

And the Buddha is NAMOAMIDABUTSU.

NAMOAMIDABUTSU

**HEADQUARTERS UPDATE**

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Web: [www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com) Email: [hqs@honpahi.org](mailto:hqs@honpahi.org)

**BISHOP'S CORNER**

**February 2023**

***“Sharing Joy Together”***

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



As we slowly transition from Winter to Spring, like the many flowers and trees in Nature, let us begin to prepare ourselves to fully blossom too. For me, every year, the gift of cherry blossoms from Kamuela, reminds me that Spring is just around the corner and brings joy to me. It warms my heart which motivates me to want to share that beauty and the joy with others. The joy we feel when we see beautiful flowers is seen by others around us. It is a very spontaneous expression and sharing which occurs very naturally. The Joy of the Dharma we feel is the same. It is not a contrived joy or a joy which I, calculatedly, try to share. For ultimately, the source of that joy is not me, but comes from the flowers themselves or in the case of the Joy of the Dharma from the Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion itself.

As Shinran Shonin explained in one of his poems, *The light of compassion illumines from afar; Those beings it reaches, it is taught, Attain the Joy of the Dharma, So take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.* Also, in his major writing “The True Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way,” he noted that *when we realize the diamondlike true mind (shinjin), we...unfailingly gain ten benefits in the present life. What are these ten?* Of the ten, number seven is *The benefit of having great joy in our hearts.* It is explained that this joy is a very special kind of joy. It is not one that will dissipate or fade after a while for it comes about *when they touch for the very first time that which is timeless (dharma-body), and therefore a joy that they have not known in the world of samsaric transmigration.* This deep joy is a very big part of Jodo Shinshu and the life of Nembutsu.

In 2023, especially, as our theme and slogan is *Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Joy Together*, let us freely allow our awareness, joy and gratitude of Namu Amida Butsu express itself. This is one major way in which we (you and I), as the Nembutsu Sangha, can share the Teachings of the Buddha and the temple with others. By our naturally expressing our joy and gratitude, let our family and friends wonder, and hopefully ask us, “Why are you always so happy and grateful?” For many, this will be the joyous condition that could lead to their discovery of Namu Amida Butsu. It will be the opportunity to introduce to them the Nembutsu and invite them to temple.

At the same time, an important component which should be in place at every temple, is when people come to our temples we should be able to sincerely and happily welcome them. Thus, I would like to encourage every temple to have a Welcoming-Membership Committee which kindly assists those who come to our temples to continue their journey or quest including hopefully eventually become members. Our temples, and each one of us, should be inviting, welcoming, nurturing and supportive places centered on the Buddha-Dharma.

*Continues on Page 15*

As a well-known Buddhist says goes *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.* Also, let us keep in mind the saying *To live a single day and hear a good teaching is better than to live a hundred years without knowing such a teaching.* To make manifest the above Dharma Teaching, please know that Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii continues to share Buddhist teachings and perspectives by continuing to regularly have Sunday Services, Buddhist Seminars and Retreats such as the Spring Session, BSC Summer Session, MLA Retreat and YESS Camp, participate in interfaith and other community organizational events like UN Interfaith Harmony Week, and support other community programs like the Ohana Arts' youth musical "Peace on your Wings" so we may fulfill our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Mission Statement *To share the living Teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism so all beings may enjoy lives of harmony, peace and gratitude* and our purpose as stated in our Hongwanji Constitution *The organization transmits the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata to all people, and in doing so, contributes to the realization of a society in which everyone, both within and outside of the organization, is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.* This is our mission and vision that should unite and guide us in all of our endeavors.

In particular, as Jodo Shin Buddhists, let that deep joy that we experience of being accepted as we are and forever embraced by Amida Buddha's all-inclusive Wisdom and all-embracing Compassion express itself and let us naturally share it with others with the wish that others too, may come to know and experience the same joy and happiness. More than ever, let us live the Nembutsu by responding in gratitude to Amida Buddha by "Sharing (the) Joy (of Namo Amida Butsu) Together" by talking about Amida Buddha and reciting Namo Amida Butsu as a manifestation of 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."

Thank you and Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion

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	Jason Hashimoto		Gary Murai

# March 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		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am First Sunday Dharma Family Service & Dharma School	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo			9:30 am ~ 12:00 pm Senior Program 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo		8:30 am ~ Nihongo Class
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 am Family Service	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo			6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo		8:30 am ~ Nihongo Class
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am Family Service Spring Higan	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo			6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo		8:30 am ~ Nihongo Class
26	27	28				
9:00 am Family Service	6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo					

