



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

May 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

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SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

Sunday, May 7, 9:00 a.m.
FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE
MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE
DHARMA SCHOOL
BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Sunday, , May 14, 9:00 a.m.
MOTHER'S DAY
GUEST SPEAKER: REV. TENNES
LIVESTREAMED AT MAKAWAO HONGWANJI

Sunday, May 28, 9:00 a.m.
FUJIMATSURI AT LAHAINA HONGWANJI

Sunday, May 21, 9:00 a.m.
GOTAN-e SERVICE

SHINRAN'S BIRTHDAY (Gotan-e)

Gotan-e Service is to celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin (May 21, 1173), who abandoned the method of finding enlightenment by his own self-power and placed his faith in Amida's Power to realize
Buddhahood

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

「きみよう 帰命」 kimyō



“Take Refuge” or “Return to Life”

Aloha from Japan! Mimy and I are profoundly grateful for the *sangha* temple community of Makawao Hongwanji and the innumerable causes and conditions that have allowed us to spend two weeks in Japan.

Truth of Impermanence: incredibly, it has been five years since I graduated from the Chuō Bukkyō Gakuin Seminary in Kyōto. In the past five years, many of my classmates have taken over their family temples as *jūshoku* chief priest, gotten married and had children, and thus are busy with “real life” as priests, parents, sons, or daughters of aging parents, and as leaders of their communities. Five years ago, almost all my classmates were in their 20s and fully enjoying their brief time as seminary students, free of “real world” responsibilities, and able to have as much fun as our schedules allowed. Mimy and I loved to host *pau hana* TBIF (Thank Buddha It’s Friday) “potluck parties” at our apartment, which was a new experience for my classmates since most Japanese houses are too small to entertain more than a few people, and the concept of “potluck” was new for all. We became close friends with many of the “kids” ... maybe because we were already grandparents at the time!

In the photo at left, my classmate Rev. Satoko Fujiwara, 14th generation priest of the Zenshō-ji temple in Fukuyama, Hiroshima Prefecture, and her baby daughter watch as Mimy and I harvest *takenoko* bamboo shoots in a neighbor’s backyard. Look carefully and you can see the *takenoko* in the foreground.



For Mimy, this visit has also been a rare and wonderful opportunity catch up with her family and relatives. The children of her nieces are growing up fast, her “young” cousins have reached retirement age (and their kids are now in college!).

We also had dinner with Rev. Senmou Yamamoto, chief priest of the Ganshō-ji temple, who has been a true mentor for me, and a wonderful friend for both of us. One day, I hope to bring Rev. Yamamoto to Hawaii to share the story of how he (and his wife) started a temple 18 years ago and built grew it into a thriving *sangha* of more than 200 households. In an age when temples are closing rapidly in modern Japan, Rev. Yamamoto’s story is remarkable.

If you ask him how he did it, Rev. Yamamoto will smile and say, “the working of Amida in our unrepeatable lives is *fukashigi* (inconceivable and ineffable)” and then later he’ll share how he works with troubled teens, visits people in hospices and care homes, helps members cope with the loss of spouses and loved ones, and always listens to anyone who has something to say. As my Hawaii mentor Rev. Dr. Bert Sumikawa would say, “zip da lips, open da ears” ... which remains my aspiration as a working minister...but I still crash into my self-centered ego every time (a different story).

For me, returning to Japan—where I spent a total of 23 years living and working as a technical translator, copywriter, and corporate executive before becoming a minister—was an opportunity take a deep breath, put my “busy” life on pause, and reflect upon where I’ve come from, the paths taken (and not taken), and to re-evaluate where I am, and where I hope to going.

Chanting the *Shōshinge* in the Goeido Founder’s Hall dedicated to Shinran-*shōnin* at the sunrise service at 6:00 a.m. every morning, reminded me of the “*fukashigi*”-ness of my journey from “son of Japanese gardener” in South-Central Los Angeles, to expatriate executive in Japan and China, to ordained priest of Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha, to resident minister of Makawao Hongwanji on Maui.

Observing the special services to commemorate the 850th birthday of Shinran-*shōnin* and the 800th anniversary of the Jōdo Shinshū teachings caused me to appreciate the “*fukashigi*”-ness of how the Path of Nembutsu, mindfulness of Amida Buddha, came to me, not the other way around. My Ego (ME) would like to think I’m a smart guy who studied hard and deserves the pieces of paper I got when I graduated, when, in fact, the opportunity to dedicate my life to spiritual affairs in my 60s was created by other people and countless causes and conditions beyond my control and influence. NamoAmidaButsu!

If you are traveling to Kyoto this month for the 800th/850th ceremony and the World BWA Conference, make a point to visit the Goeido Founder’s Hall and view the calligraphy in the side altar on your right facing the altar dedicated to Shinran-*shōnin*, which is known as the *jūji-myōgo* or Ten-Character Name.

The calligraphy reads, “*kimyō jin jippō mugekō nyorai*” or “take refuge in the Tathāgata of Unobstructed Light Suffusing the Ten Directions”—which is a mouthful in any language! This calligraphy is said to be written by Rennyo-*shōnin*, the 8th Monshu and “Great Restorer” of the Hongwanji tradition in the 15th century.

A “simple” way to understand this calligraphy is as a longer and more poetic version of Namo Amida Butsu (“take refuge in Amida Buddha”), where *nyorai* or Tathāgata refers to Amida, and the “Unobstructed Light Suffusing the Ten Directions” refers to the infinite light of Wisdom that is Amida. Amida is Japanese pronunciation *amita* (immeasurable) used in *amitayus* (immeasurable light) and *amitabha* (immeasurable light), which together refer to Amida.



The simplest way to understand this calligraphy is the first two characters *ki* (to return, as in to return home) and *myō* (life) “**return to life**”. Since the subject of the verb is not stated, *kimyō* can be interpreted as a command or exhortation “return to life”, where Amida in all his/her/their manifestations is “life” itself, this unrepeatable life that is unique to you.

In our busy “modern” lives, we are constantly bombarded with anxiety-inducing commercial messaging, political propaganda, and “solutions” to “problems” we did not know we had until the TV commercial told us!

Thus, Amida is calling to us, imploring us to “return to life” by hearing the Calling Voice of Amida, to truly understand that Amida’s infinite compassion already embraces us, just as we are, never to abandon us—and our going forth to Birth into the Pure Land, becoming Buddha, and returning in Oneness with Amida to this world to guide others to their Birth is already assured. NamoAmidaButsu!

In this way, free of anxiety over “what happens when I die?”, we are brought to the realization that this life, just as it is, is unrepeatable. We begin to see that this life, just as it is, is “just right” for us. We are brought to awareness and mindfulness that we will, without fail, “return to life” (*kimyō*) through the inconceivable working of Amida’s Vow to Save All in our lives.

While remaining “utterly human”—driven by insatiable Ego-centric cravings and desires—we begin to perceive manifestations of Amida in our lives, we begin to perceive the Light of Wisdom which is “unobstructed” and “suffuses the Ten Directions” (i.e., everywhere, and anywhere) is shining on us, just as we are! NamoAmidaButsu!

This “change of heart” (*eshin*) is the transformative experience of *shinjin*—the “entrusting heart and mind” of Amida working inside our very human heart and mind.

Shinran taught that “*shinjin* is the true cause of Birth into the Pure Land”—not me saying NamoAmidaButsu, or chanting the Shōshinge, or engaging in “practices”, or making offerings and donations to the temple.

Continued From Page 3, Minister's Message

Shinjin comes to us through the working of Amida in our unrepeatable lives—every time you hear and say NamoAmidaButsu (or “*kimyō jin jippō mugekō nyorai*” if you prefer).

And you don't have to travel to Japan to “return to life” — your unrepeatable life is unfolding in front of you, right here, right now, naturally, as it was meant to be, just for you, and your ultimate “return to life” is already assured. NamoAmidaButsu!

Mahalo,

Rev. Kerry

P.S. If you ever need help harvesting *takenoko* bamboo shoots, just call me and Mimy!



(top) Chanting the Shōshinge in the Goeido Founder's Hall at the Hongwanji in Kyoto.

(bottom) The altar dedicated to Shinran in the Goeido Founder's Hall—even the ultra-wide angle lens on my iPhone barely captures the magnificence of the inner sanctum of the altar.



OBON DANCE PRACTICE

Obon season is here! Makawao Hongwanji Obon will be held July 21 (Fri) and 22 (Sat). We will be having a one-night practice on June 6 at 7 p.m. in our Social Hall. Come join us and LET'S DANCE!



IN MEMORIAM

Makawao Hongwanji Mission extends its deepest sympathy to families that have recently lost a loved one:
Family of the **Late Mr. Masao Joe Takahashi** (92) who passed away on December 20, 2022.

May & June 2023 Memorial Anniversaries

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

1st Year Memorial Service 2022

May 05 Mitsuko Matsui
May 13 Megumi Takemoto

1st Year Memorial service 2022

June - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2021

May - None

3rd Year Memorial Service 2021

June - None

7th Year Memorial Service 2017

May 03 Sumiko "Sue" Nakashima
May 17 Sachiko Kotani Smith

7th Year Memorial Service 2017

June - None

13th Year Memorial Service 2011

May 01 Clayton Shigeo Sato
May 23 Komei Uyehara

13th Year Memorial Service 2011

June 03 Tamao Otani
June 26 Tom Tanizaki

17th Year Memorial Service 2007

May 04 Kathrine Mieko Kagehiro
May 07 John Toraichi Hashimoto

17th Year Memorial Service 2007

June 05 Japo Itsumi Yokohama
June 11 Koichi Nitta
June 13 Masaichi Okamura

25th Year Memorial Service 1999

May 28 Hatsuko Murashige

25th Year Memorial Service 1999

June 06 Makoto Tanaka

33rd Year Memorial Service 1991

May 02 Fujito Nagata
May 26 Taki Mae Itamura

33rd Year Memorial Service 1991

June 30 Mitsuo Ito

50th Year Memorial Service 1974

May - None

50th Year Memorial Service 1974

June 19 Suga Matsuo

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 March 26, 2023 to April 25, 2023

DONATION:

David Hongo
Burton Onikama
Alfred Itamura
Joann Yosemite
Jean Heselden
Christine Kubo
Annette Tashiro

In memory of Yoshiharu Nakamura and Robin Tengan – Lynn Nakamura Tengan
In memory of Sam Morikawa (17th year memorial) – Marion Morikawa
In memory of Betsy Matsumura – Marion Morikawa, Lyman and Marilyn Morikawa
In memory of Isao Kametani and Laura Taketa – Faith and Donald Ito
In memory of Kazuo and Misao Tamura – Merle and Lorna Beghtel
In memory of Tokiyo Hiromoto (33rd year memorial) – Hisako J. Wakashige
In memory of Harumi Kawahara (25th year memorial) – Maureen and Ronald Fitch
In memory of Yukiko Shiraki (33rd year memorial) – Maureen and Ronald Fitch
In memory of Tokiyo Hiromoto – Jane Fukushima, Hideaki Hiromoto
Hanamatsuri – Hideo and Joyce Kawahara, Karen and Rogers Ishizu, Clyde and Gail Hamai,
Andrew and Betty Hirose, Floyd and Sharon Nagoshi, Edwin and Mieko Kanemoto, Glenn
and Diane Kosaka
Temple audio system upgrades – Calvin and Sharon Higuchi

NOKOTSUDO:

Patsy Makimoto
Mae Balmores
Harold Makimoto
Diane and Sidney Nako
In memory of Tsurue Kawahara (25th year memorial) – Dale Kawahara
In memory of Tadashi Fukushima – George and Alice Fukushima
In memory of Harumi Kawaharada (25th year anniversary) – James and Jean Ogata and family



OFUSE:

1st year memorial service for Richard Hieda – Family of Richard Hieda
1st year memorial service for Chiyoko Tokuoka – Family of Chiyoko Tokuoka
13th year memorial service for Hiroshi Matsui – Family of Hiroshi Matsui
13th year memorial service for Laura Taketa – Family of Laura Taketa
1st year memorial service for Dick Fukushima – Family of Dick Fukushima
In memory of Dick Fukushima – Elaine and Michael Randall, Anonymous

NEWSLETTER:

Dorothy Nishida Munsey

EITAIKYO:

Clyde and Gail Hamai

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING: \$70.45

Why I Like Church

By Sierra Kosaka

Every first Sunday, and some other days, the temple is a really soothing place to be. From the echoing sound of the bells to the smell of the incense that is filled with memories, serene vibes pulsate from every foot, every speck, every atom*. But it doesn't make me tired or bored. No, quite the opposite. You see, it's refreshing. Rejuvenating. Revitalizing. And no, I'm not saying what you want to hear. I would never. I'm saying what I want to say, what I *can* say, because I've experienced it. I've experienced so many amazing things in my life. The memories of the temple rank it near the top. Hey, it's above rainy days, and that's really high, coming from me.

One memory from church was when my friend was there for the first time with me. When I saw her, I was so ecstatic. Elated.

Happy.

And happy is how those areas in church make me feel now.

I also remember Halloween, one where Sensei dressed up as Snow White and tried his best to be a soprano. Heh. Trunk or treat was also really memorable, since my friends were there sometimes and it was night at the temple that I usually thought of as eternal day. Just walking around, collecting yummys with my siblings and friends, and gazing at the stars. Which reminds me of another memory- Cub Scout camping night! Which, of course, was also at church. Me and that same friend were ditching Detective Pikachu to sit in her car and just be. I don't know how else to explain it. Just be... kids? No, just be us. We stargazed, after that. Oh, that stargazing was one of the best experiences of my life. Sometimes I've been friendless. Split. But in that moment I was as connected, bonded, *together* as I could ever be.

Ha, not to mention Obon! I really, really, REALLY love playing and running those games. Oh, and dancing. I adore the Obon music, food, COTTON CANDY (yum) and just being there. Oh, painting the *yagura*, too. Hanging the lanterns...throwing the flowers...sitting and watching the action unfold, the food disappear, the children giddy with delight.

Oh- I nearly forgot the garage sales. I loooove being cashier, and since my friend-I guess I should call her my best friend, since that's what she is- my *best* friend is there, and there's manju, and we cashier together (not sure if cashier is a verb) because we both love cashiering and it's better together. We add up the costs and check each other, then ask if they wanted a box, bag, or nothing.

Some of these memories are worth the world to me. They've made me who I am. Who I was. Who I will become. I have the temple to thank.

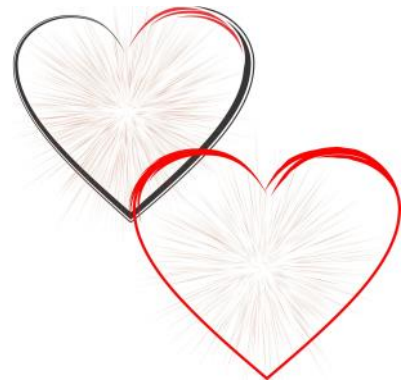
I have you to thank, too. Everyone who I've interacted with at church. Thank you for shaping me just as much as I've shaped myself. Thank you for helping me crack my Mirror just a little bit.

I wrote a poem about a Mirror. If you read it, you'd know what I meant. Here:

You feel upset at someone
You think they are not kind
Ever wonder if they
Are in the right?
What if they
Are more upset than you?

But
We are blinded
By our own eyes
Our own thoughts
Our own feelings

Shoving people away
And pride,
Jealousy,
Anger,
Like a mirror.



Continues on Page 8

We can only see what we want to see,
Ourselves.
For nobody, not even you,
Are completely empty
Of yourself.
But there is a way
To overcome
The Mirror.

To think
To feel
To embrace
Someone else's
Mirror, you must
Push away your own feelings.
Not forever- you can feel them if you want.

Then
You are seeing
You are feeling
You can embrace
The opposite Mirror.
And maybe
You can shatter the mirror
Like you shattered yours.

Because love- real love-
Isn't like a flower
Blooming and wilting again.
Love- real love-
Isn't like a wave
Rising, falling.
Love- real love-
Isn't like glass,
Fragile, easily broken, then suddenly
Shattered.

Love- real love-
Is like the moon,
Seeming to disappear sometimes,
But it's always there.
Love- real love-
Is like the seasons,
Changing, changing, sometimes dreary,
Sometimes perfect.

So your love
And your mirror
Meet
And the mirror
Is gone.

Now do you understand?

I can see now- just a sliver- but I can see a little clearer. Because you helped me crack my mirror. This temple helped me crack my mirror.





My new sight is how I know that yours is a little cracked, too.

Some say I have a way with words. But is it the words?

Words are just letters. I'm not speaking with my mouth.

I'm speaking with my heart. My soul. The fire within me- within all of us- that burns and burns, and can never be extinguished. I'm speaking with my pride, my love, my hope. And I'm speaking through that little crack in the glass.

Do you hear me?

Sierra Kosaka is a 5th grader, Scout member, Dharma school member, daughter of Loren and Megan Kosaka, granddaughter of Glen and Diane Kosaka



April Birthdays Celebration at MHBT 4/2/2023 Sunday Service.

FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE - The first Sunday of each month at Makawao Hongwanji starts with scouts raising of the flags. Then we have birthday cupcakes for those born in that month. Names of our passed members will be announced in remembrance. Children are then escorted to the Social Hall for Dharma School before Rev. Kerry begins his Sunday message. Come join us!



First Sunday Dharma School students work on creating their sharing-joy project.



Scouts raising of flags.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Glen and Kathy Kitagawa

Children: Kaitlin (senior) and Brayden (8th grade)

SAVE THE DATE!

Summer Garage & Bazaar to be held in June!

Due to a busy July schedule, our annual Summer Garage Sale/Bazaar will be held a week earlier, on **Saturday, June 24** and Sunday, June 25. The annual bazaar will also be held on **Sunday, June 25th**. You **won't** want to **miss out on** all the great stuff **that's** going to be for sale. We are already gathering many wonderful household items, tons of clothing, yukatas for obon, antiques and curios, books, toys, beautiful plants, furniture, crafts and much, much more! On Sunday, June 25, the bazaar items will include Makawao Hongwanji's famous Chow Fun, jams & jellies, sushi, baked **goodies** and miscellaneous home-grown products.



So, mark your calendars for the last weekend in June!

We are now gratefully accepting donations for the garage sale. We realize that the success of our garage sales has always depended so much on the generosity of our supporters. We thank you all very, very much! We also would like to ask that donations still be in good working order, well maintained, and gently used, such as with linens, blankets & clothing. Again, your donations are greatly appreciated. However, please note that we cannot accept certain items. **Please check with the office before dropping off large items (808) 572-7229.**

WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF THE FOLLOWING:

- ⇒ **Baby strollers, cribs, play pens, car seats (Subject to Safety Laws & Liability)**
- ⇒ **Large home exercise equipment (We cannot store or carry ourselves)**
- ⇒ **Sofas—(We usually cannot sell them, and they must be taken to the dump by our workers.)**
- ⇒ **Beds, Mattresses, Bed Frames**
- ⇒ **Large TV's (Over 25")**
- ⇒ **Lawn mowers, vacuum cleaners**
- ⇒ **Computers/ Printers**
- ⇒ **Flammable items (gas canisters, old paints, paint thinners, household cleaners, etc.)**
- ⇒ **Large heavy furniture (Hard to store and carry.)**
- ⇒ **Metal Filing Cabinets**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

MAHALO!

If you have any questions, please call the office at (808) 572-7229.



**NO STINKY
SHOES, PLEASE!**

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS
Sunday, April 2, 2023



Minister's Report:

1. Japanese School on Saturday mornings going well, with 3 class levels serving keiki beginners, adult beginners, and adult intermediate
2. Two more Eagle Merit badges signed up.
3. Sound System: Report submitted.

Central Maui Hanamatsuri on April 9 at Wailuku Hongwanji: Karen Ishizu reported that Makawao is in charge of organizing and providing refreshments. Scouts of Troop 18 will provide First Aid assistance. Jaimee Yokoyama and Jean Nishida will be Makawao's reps to offer flowers and incense.

Fujimatsuri Celebration May 28 at Lahaina Hongwanji: Service will start at 9 a.m. followed by activities and lunch. Games and activities will be organized by Jr. YBA of Maui and VIDSTA (Valley Island Dharma School Teachers Association).

Transition to New Council President: Clyde Hamai announced his resignation from the office of Presidency of Makawao Hongwanji effective April 30, 2023. Effective May 1, 2023, Vice President Karen Ishizu will become the president. Floyd Nagoshi will remain the voting Immediate Past President. We thank Clyde for his great service as President and his many years of dedicated and generous support of our temple.

Activities:

1. Sharon Nagoshi announced that Baccalaureate Service will be held on Sunday June 6, 2023.
2. Bon Dance Towel: New Obon towel design is being drafted and will be sold at our Obon.

Membership: Report submitted.

Funeral/Columbarium: Report submitted. Perpetual Dharma Fund is provided within report. Council voted to approved moving forward with program.

Maui District Hongwanji Council: Sharon Higuchi reported that State Lay Association Task Force held its first meeting viz Aoom. They are exploring alternative models for the State Lay Association, the purpose for the association ad whether we still need it. Please email Sharon with your thoughts about continuation and purpose of Lay Association.

BWA: Bobbi Nakagawa reported that BWA had its first annual luncheon since COVID 2020.

SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS: Programs are going strong and establishment of the all-girl troop is moving along.

Judo: Club is active with lots of kids and teens. COVID vaccination is no longer required for participation.

Pickled Peaches: Temple members no longer produce pickled peaches, but the new all-girl BSA Troop will try to learn the process as way to raise funds.

Garage Sale Set Up Starts 6/11/2023 in Social Hall: No other activities will be able to use the Social Hall from 6/11/23 through 6/25/2023.

Plant Sale: Sharon Higuchi plans to continue for Garage Sale in June.

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

SENIOR PROGRAM -

The laughter coming from the Dana House was so glorious! All because the seniors were playing Hanafuda and Connect 4. We all had not played these games for many years or decades? We enjoyed the challenge and memories of those long-ago days.

In May we will be helping with the bazaar/garage sale preparations. We'll be making price tags for garage sale items, toys and furniture. We will also be pricing crafts from the sewing group. Would you like to help? Come join us on the second Thursday of May at 9:30 a.m. at the Dana House. Let's work and talk story. Then we'll enjoy lunch together and still more talk story. Come join us! We'd love to see you!

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL



Makawao Hongwanji Preschool “Halau” was a joy to see while these preschoolers put on an impromptu performance! Most of our preschoolers will be graduating to kindergarten this year. Graduation will be taped on video shared with all the families, as we have done since COVID. Thank you to all the families that shared their children with us and allowed us to get them ready for “higher education”.

TROOP 18 NEWS

This month the Troop worked on their knot tying skills, tidied up the Scout House, helped a fellow Scout with his Eagle Scout project, and had a Court of Honor ceremony.

During the Court Of Honor, seven boys advanced in Scout ranking. Omri Cahana and Xander Hurst made First Class. Brayden Kitagawa, Wesley Kosaka, Breven Nishimitsu, Nevin Wehner, and Blake Yatsushiro advanced to Star Scout.

Also this month, Johnathan Lane worked on his Eagle Scout project. He and fellow Troop members sanded and painted the benches around the social hall.



Central Maui Hanamatsuri

April 9, 2023

By: karen Ishizu

The sound of music, voices and laughter filled the temple and Social Hall at Wailuku Hongwanji Mission on April 9, 2023. What an opportunity it presented to “talk story” while enjoying the Flower Festival and Buddha’s birthday, sponsored by the Central Maui Hanamatsuri Association.

The day started with service led by Rev. Kerry Kiyohara, Rev. John Hara and Rev. Shinkai Murakami. The beautifully decorated Hanamido at the front of the altar was created by Wailuku and Kahului Jodo Missions. It was admired by all. The practice of bathing the Baby Buddha with sweet tea caught the attention of participants which happens only once a year during the Hanamatsuri celebration.

Chants and songs filled the temple accompanied by organist, Mrs. Minae Murakami. What a thrill to hear our ministers chanting and the sangha singing along with “real, in person” organ music.

The day continued with refreshments, a variety of entertainment, games, lucky number and lunch. What a way to celebrate Buddha’s Birthday and Flower Festival. Let’s do it again next year with more family and friends in attendance to enjoy HANAMATSURI 2024.

A Nice Visit from Florence Sakae and Family - Florence Sakae (age 105 and lives in Kahului) made a very nice visit to our temple this week, along with her son Spencer and daughter-in-law Betty as well as granddaughter Sue Anne from California. It just so happened that there were a bunch of temple members on campus to chop daikon for sanbaisuke. We were very happy to have this opportunity to visit with Florence.



L to R: Spencer, Florence, Betty.



L to R: Carol, Betty, Karen, Florence, Bobbi, Alison, Jean, Spencer, Paul

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Don't forget to send in your membership dues by September 7, 2023 or earlier. Remember, except for Emeritus members, you are not a sustaining member until dues are paid.

To check on your member status, please call 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

May 2023



**“Aloha, where East Meets West:
A Significant Mo'olelo (Story) From My Faith.”**

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

Earlier this year, in observance of the United Nation's World Interfaith Harmony, numerous faith traditions gathered for the 3rd World Religions' Conference sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Honolulu at their Kalihi Mosque. Bishop Eric Matsumoto was invited to represent the Buddhist Community. Each tradition was given 7 minutes for a presentation on the theme. The following message is a condensed version of the message shared by Bishop Matsumoto introducing the story of Kisagotami (slightly adapted) from BDK's *The Teaching of Buddha*.

Once, there was a young woman named Kisagotami, the wife of a wealthy man, who lost her mind because of the death of her child. She took the dead child in her arms and went from house to house begging people to heal the child. Of course, they could do nothing for her, but finally a follower of the Buddha advised her to see the Blessed One (Sakyamuni Buddha).

The Blessed One looked upon her with empathy and said: “To heal the child I need some poppy seeds; go and beg for four or five poppy seeds from some home where death has never entered.”

So (she)...sought a house where death had never entered, but in vain. At last, she was obliged to return to the Buddha. In his quiet presence her mind cleared and she understood the meaning of his words. ... (she)...became one of his disciples.

This actual story from the life of the Historic Buddha shares the truth or reality of impermanence, that everyone and everything is subject to change including the human body which, born of conditional causes and conditions, is thus subject to old age, sickness and death. This may sound pessimistic, but in actuality it depicts reality. The goal of Buddhism is to be in touch with reality and in that way attain perfect peace and tranquility by becoming aware and thus not attached to false perceptions of our ego. As the Historic Buddha said,

Life is ever changing; none can escape the dissolution of the body. ...the true Buddha is not a human body: -it is Enlightenment. A human body must die, but the Wisdom of Enlightenment will exist forever in the truth of the Dharma...

This understanding of the impermanent nature of the self, however, does not totally negate life and living and deny the significance of the body as we find in the following quote:

Those who hear and receive the Buddha's teaching know that their lives are transient...so they do not become attached to them. At the same time, they do not neglect to take good care of

their bodies, not because they wish to enjoy the physical pleasures of the body, but because the body is temporarily necessary for the attainment of wisdom and for their mission of explaining the Path to others.

The Buddhist view embraces old age, sickness and death as a natural part of life. Ajahn Brahm shares

I came to know...a region steeped in Buddhist teachings...(where) death was accepted by all in a way that defied Western theories of grief and loss. ...there is an alternative to grief. Not that grief is wrong, only that there is another possibility.

Loss of a loved one can be viewed in a second way, a way that avoids the long days of aching grief." "Grief is seeing only what has been taken away from you. The celebration of life is recognizing all that we were blessed with, and feeling so very grateful.

From my own Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhist Tradition, I am recalling a poem written by Ayako Suzuki. She died of cancer, but she wrote the following remarkable poem.

*Now I finally understand the Buddha's words.
For this life that I have received,
I am very thankful.
For this body that is able to listen
To the Buddha-Dharma,
I am very thankful.
For the Nembutsu that I have been able to receive,
I am very thankful.
And now, with inner joy and gratitude,
I also receive the end of my life.*

Ayako Suzuki encountered both the Wisdom and the Compassion of Enlightenment. It is not the attainment of Enlightenment by her, but she came into contact with it. On one hand, she came to understand one aspect of the Wisdom of Enlightenment that life is subject to change and at the same time she experienced the embrace of the Amida Buddha's Great Compassion known as Namo Amida Butsu, which, unconditionally, just as we are, embraces one and all who Entrust, and vows that no matter what I shall never abandon you (and all who Entrust) under any circumstance and eventually bring about your Enlightenment.

Now, what does this have to do with "East meets West?" There is much we can learn from this "Eastern" view of life and when combined with the "Western" role of medicine and health care, it can produce a much more balanced view of life and a realistic role of medicine and health care which will benefit patients and health care professionals too. I am a supporter of the integration of spiritual care into health care for a more wholistic approach as being advocated by individuals such as Dr. Christina Puchalski.

To conclude, for us of Hawaii guided by the Aloha Spirit, we are in a good position to offer to the world, a very special gift. Hawaii is truly where "East meets West" and today's program is a prime example of it. I am honored to have been able to share today.

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



May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 10:00 am Monthly Service Kula Hospital	<i>4</i> 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 8:30 am ~ Nihongo Class
<i>7</i> 9:00 am First Sunday Dharma	<i>8</i> 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9:30 am ~ 12:00 pm Senior Program 6:00 pm~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>12</i> <i>(5/11 ~ 5/12)</i> <i>17th World Buddhist Women's Convention In Kyoto</i>	<i>13</i> 8:30 am ~ Nihongo Class
<i>14</i> 9:00 am Family Service Mother's Day Guest Speaker : Rev. Tennes (on line)	<i>15</i> 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:00 am Family Service Go-Tan-E	<i>22</i> 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:00 am Fujimatsuri Lahaina Hongwanji	<i>29</i> Office Closed 	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			

