



Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

January 2024

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

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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

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SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

MONDAY, January 1, 9:00 a.m.
NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE
Followed by Traditional Ozoni Soup

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

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

Sunday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.
FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE
DHARMA SCHOOL

Sunday, January 28, 9:00 a.m.
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING
JOY AND HAPPINESS,
PEACE ON EARTH,
TO ONE AND ALL!!!**



New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Over the last year, innumerable people worldwide have been affected by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and forest fires. I was particularly shocked by the wild fires that devastated the island of Maui in the state of Hawaii. This disaster completely destroyed the temple hall of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and one temple member was reported to have lost his life. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all who have perished in those calamities. I would also like to express my sympathies to those who are still coping with the dire situations. It is my sincere hope that all who have been affected will soon be able to return to a normal daily life.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 is still continuing. Not only that, conflict between Israel and Palestine has once again flared up from October 2023, embroiling nations concerned with victimizing a large number of people many of whom are civilians. Looking at the appalling state of the world, the following words of Sakyamuni Buddha come to mind. "Everyone fears violence and is scared of death. In consideration of all life, do not kill and do not make others kill."

Every one of us who has received life as a human being, no matter the reason, must be ensured equally of human rights, and no one's life should be threatened. In reality, however, conflicts and terrorist attacks have occurred everywhere in the world and for many people, their right to live and exist has been threatened. As Buddhists who aspire for peace, we must keep Sakyamuni Buddha's words seriously in our hearts and pursue our endeavor of contributing toward world peace and security.

During the last year, we observed the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching at Hongwanji, Kyoto for a total of 30 days, divided into 5 sessions during the period from March 29 to May 21. On this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who came to Japan to attend, as well as those who supported it in various ways. This celebratory event could be realized only because our predecessors have cherished the Jodo Shinshu teaching as their spiritual foundation for many years no matter when or where they were, and carefully transmitted it to us today.

Let us, too, continue listening to the teaching as the center of our life while cherishing each day.

January 1, 2024



OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Bishop's Message

To welcome the New Year, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you all. On behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you for your support, dedication, and participation in our services and activities.

Since I took the Headquarters Office as the new Bishop last July, I have been able to visit some of your temples. I bow my head to the ministers, temple leaders, and temple members for their tireless effort in protecting their temples and sharing with others the joy of Namo Amida Butsu. Each temple has its challenges and opportunities. As a community of people joined together revering the teaching of Shinran Shonin, let us work toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment.



This year, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii will observe the Triple Celebration at Ala Moana Hotel on September 7-8, 2024. The Triple Celebration commemorates the 850th Anniversary of the Birth of Shinran Shonin, the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teachings, and the 135th Anniversary of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The Steering Committee is working hard towards the two-day celebration event and its related programs. I would like to invite you all to attend this auspicious anniversary.

Our Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Theme and Slogan for 2024 is **“Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments.”** What are the “Nembutsu Moments”? These are the moments when the voice of the Nembutsu, “Namo Amida Butsu,” spontaneously flows from our lips.

The main body of *the Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life* explains the Forty-eight Vows of Amida Buddha, who undertook to establish a Pure Land for the enlightenment of all sentient beings. Shinran Shonin regarded that our act of saying “Namo Amida Butsu” is derived wholly from the working of Amida’s Vow. It means that the sound of “Namo Amida Butsu,” the promise Amida Buddha made to embrace and never abandon all beings, is already fulfilled and extended to all beings. It is the calling voice from the Buddha of Immeasurable Light and Life that holds the Buddha’s boundless empathy, concern, and compassion toward all beings. Such a message of universal compassion reaches into our hearts and minds, and flows from our lips spontaneously as “Namo Amida Butsu.”

What we experience in our daily lives could be the opportunities to ascertain and appreciate the truth of Boundless Wisdom and Compassion that embraces our lives. Let us experience, savor, appreciate, and share the Nembutsu moments with our families and friends in our daily lives.

May the sound of the Nembutsu flow from our lips. May the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha inspire and guide us always. Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani

Bishop

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

President's New Year's Message for 2024

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and in good spirits as we enter the New Year, 2024. The year 2023 was an eventful one. Many of our Sangha were able to attend the Joint Celebration (Commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching) at our Honzan in Kyoto on May 10, 2023. The Joint Celebration program was well organized and meaningful. The 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC) followed on May 11 and 12 at the modern (although 50 years old) Kyoto International Conference Center. These two events were a highlight of the year for those who were able to attend. I will always remember the warm welcome that we received from our hosts at the Honzan and at the World Buddhist Women's Convention.



Soon after our return from Japan, we said "Mahalo and Aloha" to outgoing Bishop, Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto, Chika and Caden at a luncheon in July. In August we warmly greeted incoming Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, Mrs. Yoshiko Umitani, and daughters Naho and Riho at a luncheon.

Then, the disastrous Maui Wildfires of August 8, 2023 destroyed the historic town of Lahaina. Our Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, located near the center of the town was not spared. The temple, social hall, and minister's residence burned to the ground. Only the columbarium appears to have survived the fire. Fortunately, Rev. Ai Hironaka and family along with many other temple members evacuated in time. However, we have learned that one temple member lost his life in that fire. It appears that 2023 will be remembered as the year of the Maui Wildfires and the year that Lahaina Hongwanji was lost to the fire. This was a great loss for Lahaina town and the entire Hawaii Sangha.

However, this was not the end of the story. Community, state and federal agencies rushed into action and are still on the ground in Maui, planning for the future of Lahaina town and helping those displaced by the fire. Maui temple ministers and Sangha have warmly supported Lahaina members displaced by the fire. The Hongwanji community statewide, nationally and internationally has responded with compassionate action in the form of postcards, letters, gifts and generous monetary donations. Like the recent "disaster" that affected us, the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned that we are adaptable and we are resilient. The Lahaina community, and Lahaina Hongwanji Sangha in particular, I believe will respond with grit and determination.

Our theme and slogan for 2024 is "***Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments***". We live with joy and gratitude for Amida's universal and unconditional compassion for us. Since we are connected with and care for the people around us, we *share our Nembutsu moments*, so that others may awaken to, and appreciate the Buddha's limitless Compassion. In this way, we can each contribute to *building healthy Sanghas*.

With Gassho,

Warren Tamamoto

President, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Experience Buddhism: *O-migaki* “Honorific Polishing”

Happy New Year! *Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Shinnen Omedetō Gozaimasu!* Mimy and I would like to thank you for your friendship and support in the past year and we ask for your continued kind consideration in 2024.

Mahalo to Lahaina Hongwanji member Carol Inaba, who helped with *o-migaki* “honorific polishing” of the altar adornments at Makawao Hongwanji’s temple general clean-up on December 17, 2023. Carol is holding a clean and shiny *tsuri-tōrō* “hanging lantern” in the photo below.



Mahalo, Carol, you and the lantern

“Thank you for having *o-migaki*! It was my first time and I learned new things about the meaning of the altar adornments” said Carol, “and now everything looks so shiny!”

The design of the *tsuri-tōrō* is said to have been inspired by the lantern created by Shakamuni (Gautama) Buddha to light the way of monks walking at night such that they could avoid injuring or killing any crawling insects. *Ahimsa* “no harm” is the first precept of a Buddhist monk aspiring to awakening to reality-as-it-is.

The *kiku-rintō* “chrysanthemum circular lantern” in the background is specific to Hongwanji tradition and represents the interconnected Oneness of all Life in Amida.

O-migaki is a rare occasion when laypersons are allowed into the *naijin* “inner space” of the altar; the *gejin* “outer space” of the altar is where laypersons normally would be seated to hear the Dharma.

Normally, only ordained priests properly dressed in robes and vestments are allowed in the *naijin*, which is a representation of the Pure Land of Amida, and thus must be entered into with respect and reverence.

In Japan, and from the plantation days in Hawaii, *o-migaki* is traditionally led by the *bōmori*, “temple guardian,” the spouse of the chief priest of the temple, and, especially in Hawaii, is the domain of the ladies of the Buddhist Women’s Association.

Sharon Nagoshi, director of Buddhist Education, shared her memories of being “on the outside looking in” at the senior ladies of the BWA engaged in *o-migaki* back in the day and now she’s one of the ladies who are allowed to *o-migaki* because Sharon and Mimy restarted the tradition last year.

As Carol’s experience shows us, the action and attitude of *o-migaki*, the respectful “polishing” of the adornments to the altar of Amida Buddha helps us to see beyond the mundane act of cleaning and polishing metal objects, and this shift in perspective empowers us to experience something that is beyond “us” as human beings. *NamoAmidaButsu!*

Carol will never look at any altar to Amida in the same way because she’s become more aware of the meaning of the pieces as a whole. In the Hongwanji tradition, when we

experience the mundane details of life becoming part of a wondrous whole, we experience spiritual re-connection, a Oneness we call Amida, the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Unhindered Light, *NamoAmidaButsu!*

In Japanese, this is called *tariki*, the “Other Power” of Amida working in our unrepeatable lives, connecting us with people in our lives right now, and re-connecting us with the timeless, the divine, the reality-beyond-human-perception that is Amida, *NamoAmidaButsu!*

In the reality-we-can-perceive, we know oxidation causes metal to corrode over time; the wonderful cooling breezes coming down the slopes of Haleakala also blow plenty dust into the temple hall; even the tiniest fingerprint collects dust; geckos love to climb on everything; and sensei bumps into the lanterns all the time. Over time, the shiny metal becomes tarnished and dingy-looking.

The transformation of *o-migaki* requires only ordinary people, just as they are, coming together as sangha, a temple community, and through shared effort, we make the adornments for the altar shine like new!

Makawao Hongwanji is a special place for “polishing”, recentring and rebalancing our spiritual and human sides. In quiet reflection, we can see we’re all covered in the dust and debris of this world of human confusion and delusion. Emotionally, we are wound up, depressed and anxious, by a constant barrage of “news” about divisive politics and natural disasters, and the reality of man-made disasters like war, on top of too many calls and messages from scammers trying to steal our money, and the very real and inevitable aging of our minds and bodies.

It's *o-migaki* time! Makawao Hongwanji will be a place of connection, re-connection, and “honorific polishing” of our human and spiritual selves in 2024 when we think, say, and do *NamoAmidaButsu!* together as a community of communities, as the temple sangha.

Buddhism speaks to different people in different ways. Temples and sangha communities provide the time, place, and occasion for “honorific polishing” of our human and spiritual sides but we have to make the effort to experience Buddhism for ourselves.

The true power of *NamoAmidaButsu!* is found in the sangha temple community of communities that make Makawao Hongwanji a special place for everyone.

Together, let's find your way on the Path of Nembutsu, the everyday practice of cultivating Awareness of Self and Mindfulness of Amida working in this unrepeatable life, *NamoAmidaButsu!*

I encourage everyone, to get more involved, more connected, and more reconnected in 2024 and make the effort to “polish” our human and spiritual selves.

Get ready to *experience* Buddhism! *NamoAmidaButsu!*

Mahalo,
Rev. Kerry

Building Healthy Sanghas: Sharing Nembutsu Moments

Welcome everyone, to the start of January, 2024. With anticipation of things “being better” in 2024, there is hope that the future looks brighter and we can appreciate all challenges we meet throughout the year.

A question crossed my mind the other day as I jotted down thoughts I wanted to share in my message. This question kept gnawing at me. What is something that happens every day? What a simple question with so many different answers that can satisfy the question. However, is there really one answer to the question? Or, is the answer one that depends on life itself and how one handles deep thoughts and different situations? Of course, we look to the past, we live in the present and we look toward the future for clues on how we can “be better” in our daily lives. This is the challenge for everyone of us to “be better” each and every day in 2024.

A recent visit by Rev. Urasaki opened my mind to “The Buddha’s Wish for the World” by Monshu Koshin Ohtani. I would like to share it with you once again for these gifts will bring joy to others and it will bring joy to you as well.

A Book Excerpt on Kindness :

- The gift of gentle eyes, looking at others kindly.
- The gift of a smile and kind expressions.
- The gift of words, speaking kindly to others.
- The gift of physical body. Acting properly yourself, and treating others with respect.
- A gift of heart, touching others with a heart full of love.
- The gift of a resting place, offering others a place to sit and rest.
- The gift of shelter and lodging, providing others with a room or warm place to stay.



These gifts require no possessions but the sharing of Nembutsu Moments. Namo Amida Butsu

May your day be filled with smiles laughter and kindness.

Karen

Please join us on January 28, 2024 for our installation of the following officers, directors, and advisors, follow by our shinnenkai! Let’s bring in the new year together!

MAKAWAO HONGWANJI 2024 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, ADVISORS

Officers

- President: Karen Ishizu
- Vice President: Sidney Nako
- Secretary: Jean Heselden
- Treasurer: Fred Wong

Directors

- Activities: Bobbi Nakagawa
- Buddhist Education: Sharon Nagoshi
- Finance: Glenn Hamai
- Funeral/Columbarium: Sharon Nagoshi
- Membership Co-Director: Diane Kosaka and Sharon Higuchi
- Properties & Development: VACANT
- Repair & Maintenance: John Yannell

Additional Voting Members

- BWA President: Carol Yamamura
- Immediate Past President of Temple: Floyd Nagoshi
- Resident Minister: Rev. Kerry Kihohara

Advisors - Non Voting

Nalani Archibeque, Calvin Higuchi, Lois Nishikawa, Joann Wong, Robert Yoshioka

January & February 2024 Memorial Anniversaries

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

1st Year Memorial Service 2023

January - None

1st Year Memorial service 2023

February 09 Hatsue Terada

3rd Year Memorial Service 2022

January 26 Leroy Michio Shibuya

January 31 Harriet Harue Owara

3rd Year Memorial Service 2022

February 11 Namiko Nakagawa

7th Year Memorial Service 2018

January 05 Rhodie Fuyumi Masusako

7th Year Memorial Service 2018

February - None

13th Year Memorial Service 2012

January - None

13th Year Memorial Service 2012

February - None

17th Year Memorial Service 2008

January 08 Calvin Yoshio Hashi

17th Year Memorial Service 2008

February - None

25th Year Memorial Service 2000

January - None

25th Year Memorial Service 2000

February - None

33rd Year Memorial Service 1992

January 25 Waru Ikeda

33rd Year Memorial Service 1992

February 01 Toshiko Tanimoto

February 05 Sadako Enoki

50th Year Memorial Service 1975

January - None

50th Year Memorial Service 1975

February 26 Tomie Okuda



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 November 27, 2023 to December 26, 2023

DONATION:

Maui Distributors

Vicki Nakawatase and Mike Shimaji

Ira and Marilyn Tagawa

In memory of parents "Sugimoto" – Gail Matsuura

In memory of Tetsuo Mihara (50th year memorial) – Phyllis and William Campbell

In memory of Tamaho Oda (50th year memorial) – Paul and Mae Matsui

In memory of Frederick and Yaeko Fujimoto – Sharlene Fujimoto

In memory of Patricia O. and Lionel Lee – Arthur Onikama

In memory of Jane and Waichi Kunimitsu, Wesley Kunimitsu – Lee and Mark Kunimitsu

In memory of Nadao and Aiko Makimoto – Joanne Gelsrnger and Mae Balmores

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

In memory of Kikujiro and Shimi Wataru, Nobuo and Tsurue Kawahara, Yoshio Kawahara –
Kimie and Dale Kawahara

In memory of Isamu and Kiyono Shimizu – Helen Fukagawa

In memory of Warren and Misa Nishida – Lloyd and Sharon Sodetani

Garage sale donation – Noboru Hironaka

NOKOTSUDO:

In memory of Yoshimi family – Margaret Honda

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING: \$53.25



SHINNENKAI AT MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

How many years has it been since we had our in-person Shinnenkai? Since Covid began, we've celebrated Shinnenkai with drive-thru bentos and gifts. This year, let's bring in 2024 with an in-person celebration.

**WHEN: Sunday, January 28, 2024, 9 a.m.
WHERE: Makawao Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

We will begin the day with Sunday Service, followed by Annual Membership Meeting. Then, we will convene to the Social Hall for our Shinnenkai program. Come join us!



Maui United Jr. YBA

By: Diane Nako

On December 9, the Maui United Jr YBA'ers took on the task of making sweet potato manju for their yearly HBY project. Under the guidance of Diane Kosaka, the Jr's learned about the process from start to finish on how to make delicious manju. The Jr's decided that all proceeds would benefit the Honpa Hongwanji Maui Wildfire funds. Pictured: Donna & Donavan Ikeuchi (Wailuku), Kamau Tomita (Wailuku), Hoken Hironaka (Lahaina) and Wesley Kosaka (Makawao). The Jr's impressed us by making a little over 300 manju which were sold back at their temples.



SENIOR PROGRAM - Happy new year, everyone! Senior Program is ready to start 2024 with a meeting on Thursday, January 11, 9:30 a.m. Come join us for fellowship, talk story, and good eats!



OZONI is a Japanese soup containing mochi rice cakes. The dish is associated with Japanese New Year celebration. Here's a simple recipe.

Ingredients: (for two servings)

Mochi	2
Chicken Thigh	4 oz. deboned
Carrot	1/2 of medium carrot
Shiitake Mushrooms	2 pieces
Daikon	3 inches
Mizuna	bunch (blanched for 20 sec.)
Kamaboko	2 pieces
Sake	1 tablespoon
Dashi Soup	16 ounces
Shoyu	1 tablespoon
Salt	to taste



Picture of Rie Taketa's homemade Ozoni. Wow!

1. Remove excess fat and skin from chicken, cut into bite-size pieces, sprinkle with sake.
2. Peel carrots and daikon, slice into pieces.
3. Remove stem from shiitake and cut into pieces.
4. In a pot boil soup stock and shoyu. When boiling, add chicken, carrots, daikon and boil for 3 minutes.
5. Add shiitake and boil until tender. Add salt to taste.
6. Toast mochi in a toaster oven or soften in microwave. Place mochi in a bowl then pour in soup.
7. Add kamaboko and mizuna. Ready to eat.

MOCHI TSUKI - People often asked how we make our mochi at church. Here are the steps:

- 1) After soaking the mochi rice at least over night, it is put in the wooden square boxes to steam until soft enough to pound.
- 2) It is then placed in the automatic pounder to be shaken until ready to mold.
- 3) The mochi is then placed in the cutter to be cut into desired sizes.
- 4) Voila, mochi is read!



JEAN'S SEWING CLASS

Jean's Sewing Class ended the year with a luncheon, fun games, and DIY gnome ornament. The morning was filled with laughter and stories. As you can see Jean holding up the gnome, the project turned out to be a hit! We are looking forward to another year of successful sewing classes.

WINTER GARAGE SALE

Thank you all very much for your participation in our successful Winter Garage Sale. Our first customers arrived at 4:30 am with their lounge chairs and coffees waiting for the doors to open at 7:00 am. By 7:00 am., the line stretched all the way around the front of the temple. We are truly grateful for your support .



December 2, 2023 Plant Sale

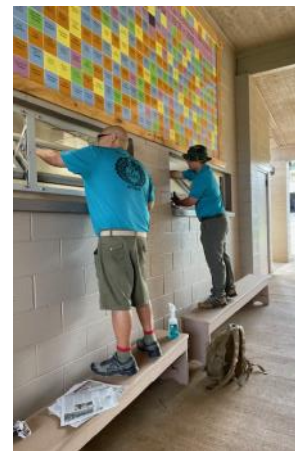
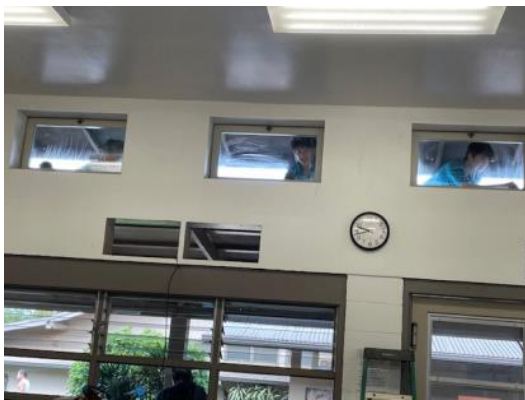
By: Sharon Higuchi

Selling plants for the Winter Garage Sale did not start until 2010. It was a small venue compared to the July Garage Sale & Bazaar but became increasingly popular. Since its inception, this December 2023 Plant Sale made the most ever in its history. Considering the challenges that plant growers face with the drought, water restrictions, deer overpopulation and this year, the Kona low that threatened heavy rains, the area below the Social Hall looked like a beautiful plant nursery.

Thank you to the following plant donors: Galan Arakaki, Nalani Archibeque, John Yannell, Evelyn Cummings, Janet and Allen Fukuda, Sharon and Calvin Higuchi, Blanche Ito, Janet Kamasaki, Shigeru Karakawa, Marilyn Morikawa, Ray Nakagawa, Neil and Mona Nakamura, Michael Nishimoto, Sharon Nohara, Paula Rafanan, Mitzi Tanaka, Amy Teves, Laura Ujii, Susan Watanabe, Roy Yamaguchi, Iwa and Robert Yoshioka, and Jan Yoshizu. If your name was inadvertently left out, please inform the office. Thank you to the volunteers who helped set up the tent and plant area, handled cashier duties, answered questions, carried plants for patrons, dismantled the plant area and loaded and unloaded plants: Sean Higuchi, Carllys Higuchi, Karsten Lee, Jan, Duane and Cy Yoshizu, Amy Teves, Tommy Nishida, Galan Arakaki, and Lorin Kosaka and the Scouts. This event would not be successful without all the volunteers, and MHB thanks you for your support.

See you at the next Plant Sale scheduled for June 22-23, 2024!

WINTER CLEAN UP - Look at some of the volunteers that helped clean our campus to bring in the new year, from ages of 6 to 86 plus! Good job, everyone! Thank you all!



MAKAWAO HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS
Sunday, December 10, 2023



1. **Treasurer's Report:** Revised proposed 2024 budget submitted.
2. **Minister's Report:** Report submitted.
3. **Preschool Property Deed:** Amendment to deed to remove restrictive covenants prepared by Attorney Paul Ueoka. Copy of email submitted.
4. **AED Training:** Karen Ishizu will schedule training session for January 2024.
5. **Winter Garage and Plant Sale on 12/2/2023:** Discussion on various aspects of the event. Financial report submitted. Sharon Higuchi submitted comprehensive report on Plant Sale.
6. **New Gatha Books 5th Edition:** Council voted to order new edition of the Gather Book.
7. **2024 Garage Sale Dates:** Summer Garage Sale will be on June 22-23, 2024. Winter Garage Sale will be on December 7, 2024.
8. **New Office Secretary/Manager:** Rie Taketa will be retiring at the end of February 2024. An ad hoc committee will be formed to create job description, etc.
9. **2024 Activities:** First draft of 2024 activities calendar submitted.
10. **Membership:** Report submitted.
11. **Funeral/Columbarium:** Report submitted.
12. **Repairs and Maintenance:** Report submitted. Director John Yannell will prioritize projects based on urgency in consultation with Calvin Higuchi, Jean Hedelden will maintain the R&M spreadsheet.
13. **Maui District Hongwanji Council:** Karen Ishizu, Diane Kosaka, Bobbi Nakagawa, and Carol Yamamura attended meeting on 11/27, 2023.
14. **HHMH Board of Directors:** Report submitted.
15. **Jr. YBA:** Manju fundraiser made Okinawan sweet potato manju and was sold out quickly.
16. **Preschool:** Report submitted.
17. **Mochi Tsuki 12/16/2023:** Will start at 8 a.m.
18. **Winter General Clean Up 12/17/2023:** Will start at 8 a.m., snacks and lunch will be provided.
19. **1/28/2024 Annual General Membership and Shinnenkai New Year's Celebration:** Please see Bobbi or Karen if you are able to volunteer to help. During this Sunday Service, the 2024 Temple Council members will be sworn in. Between Sunday Service and New Year's Party, we will hold the Annual General Membership Meeting to vote on 2024 Budget, ratify Council actions in 2023, etc.
20. **2/9-10/2024 Legislative Assembly in Honolulu or via Zoom:** Our two voting lay delegates will be Carol Yamamura and Jean Heselden. Rev. Kerry is our voting Minister Delegate.
21. **9/7-8/2024 Triple Celebration in Honolulu:** Please see signup sheet in the office. Registration deadline is 3/31/2024.
22. **9/8/2024 Lay Convention in Honolulu.** Tentative plan is to have the Lay Convention meet on the afternoon of Sunday September 8 while folks are still in Honolulu for the Triple Celebration.

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

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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

December 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Return to Lahaina Hongwanji

As the re-entry restriction to zone 12B was lifted for the residents of Lahaina on Monday, November 27, 2023, Rev. Ai Hironaka, Business Manager Derrick Inouye, and I returned to the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission for the first time since the wildfire devastated the town of Lahaina on August 8, 2023.

Upon arrival at the temple, the three of us stood on the top of the stairs leading to the temple's front entrance. We placed our hands together in Gassho and chanted the sutra Sanbutsuge as we overlooked the debris-filled altar area destroyed by fire. The sound of the Nembutsu echoed through the quiet town.

We then entered the Nokotsudo (columbarium) building. The exterior seemed to have minor damages, such as cracks in the glass doors and some heat damage to the roof, but the interior, including all the niches and the altar, was intact. This is truly good news for the temple family, especially for those who have their loved ones interred in the Nokotsudo. We offered the incense and again chanted the sutra Sanbutsuge in front of the altar. It is indeed fortunate that the Nokotsudo was intact.

We then wore protective gear and began searching through the burnt rubble and assessing the situation. Although cloudy on the day, it wasn't easy to continue working with protective clothing for a long time. It was necessary to take breaks every 30 minutes or so to rehydrate. The temple building, minister's residence, garage, temple office, social hall, and the Japanese School building were all burned down, leaving only a few remnants, such as the stone pillars and walls. We carefully and respectfully searched the remains, especially in the altar area, while taking photographs of the damaged area. It is truly regrettable to report that the *Gohonzon* (Amida Buddha's statue) and the other altar ornaments, such as picture scrolls of Shinran Shonin and Rennyo Shonin, *Daikin* bell, *Shumidan*, *Maejoku* table, pews in the *Gejin* area, etc., were all burned to the ashes. We discovered some altar ornaments, but they were all heavily damaged, and it was hard to identify what they were.

In the desolate scenery, the statue of Shinran Shonin was still standing firmly with great dignity. His back, blackened by fire, indicated the fierceness of the blaze that engulfed the temple. By the side of Shinran Shonin, the small tree that the Gomonshu planted during his official visit to Hawaii in 2017 survived the fire and sprouted some new green leaves. The blackened statue of Shinran Shonin and a humble tree with greenery symbolize our resilience and commitment to the future. The road to recovery has just begun. We never know what the future holds. But we will move forward together. The Lahaina Hongwanji's statue of Amida Buddha has disappeared, but in our own voice of the Nembutsu, the three of us clearly heard the voice of Compassion that still embraces and sustains us warmly. Namo Amida Butsu.

On behalf of Rev. Ai Hironaka, the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, and the people of Lahaina, I would like to humbly ask for your continued support.

In Gassho,

Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani
December 4, 2023

Note: Go to the HHMH Website at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2023/12/05/return-to-lahaina-hongwanji/> for some pictures and video we took during our visit on Monday, November 27, 2023, along with the link to the Maui News article and the Kyodo News video.

JANUARY 2024

Sun-	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 am New Year's Day Service	2	3 10:00 am Monthly Service "Kula Hospital"	4	5	6
7 9:00 am First Sunday Dharma Service / Dharma School	8 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	9	10 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 10:00 am Monthly Service Hale Makua Kahului	11 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	12	13
14 9:00 am Family Service 11:00 am Council Mtg.	15 Office Closed *M. L. King, Jr. Day	16	17 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me	18 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	19	20
21 Ho-onko Shrinran Memorial Service / Dharma School	22 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	23	24 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me	25 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	26	27
28 Shinnenkai / Installation of Officers	29 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me 6:00 pm ~ 8:45 pm Judo	30	31 7:30 am ~ 11:30 am Tutu and Me			

2024 ACTIVITES CALENDAR - MHBT

(Activities subject to change. See current newsletters for updates.)

JANUARY

- 1 Monday New Year's Day Service - 9 a.m.
7 First Sunday Family Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
Children Dharma School
14 Sunday Family Dharma Service
21 *Goshoki Ho-onko* **SHINRAN MEMORIAL SERVICE**
Children Dharma School
28 Installation of Officers

FEBRUARY

- 4 Scout Sunday
11 Sunday Family Dharma Service
18 Sunday Family Dharma Service
Children Dharma School
25 Sunday Family Dharma Service

MARCH

- 3 First Sunday Family Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
Children's Dharma School
10 Sunday Family Dharma Service
17 *Shunki Higan-e* **SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE**
Children Dharma School
24 Sunday Family Dharma Service
31 Sunday Family Dharma Service

APRIL

- 7 Central Maui Hanamatsuri (at KHM)
First Sunday Family Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
Children's Dharma School
14 Hanamatsuri at Makawao Hongwanji
21 Sunday Family Dharma Service
Children Dharma School
28 *Eshin-ni / Kakushin-ni-Service* (Carol Yamamura - BWA)

MAY

- 5 Baccalaureate Service
Children Dharma School
12 First Sunday Family Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
Parent Day Service (Dharma School)
19 *Gotan-e* **SHINRAN SHONIN BIRTHDAY SERVICE**
Children Dharma School
26 Fujimatsuri at Makawao Hongwanji

JUNE

- 2 First Sunday Family Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
9 Sunday Family Dharma Service
16 Sunday Family Dharma Service
22-23 Garage Sale
23 Bazaar and Garage Sale
30 Sunday Family Dharma Service

JULY

7 First Sunday Family Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
14 Sunday Family Dharma Service
21 General Clean Up
26 & 27 **OBON**
28 No Sunday Service - Rest From Obon

AUGUST

4 ***No Sunday Services during month of August***
11
18
25

SEPTEMBER

1 *SHUJI HIGAN-E AUTUMN HIGAN SERVICE*
Monthly Memorial Service
Children Dharma School
8 No Sunday Service
Triple Celebration on Oahu
15 Grandparent's Day
Children Dharma School
21 (Saturday) International Peace Day
22 Peace Day Service
29 Sunday Family Dharma Service

OCTOBER

6 First Sunday Family Dharma Service
Monthly Memorial Service
Children Dharma School
13 Sunday Family Dharma Service
20 Sunday Family Dharma Service
Children Dharma School
27 Sunday Fun Day Service (Halloween)

NOVEMBER

3 *Eitaikyo PERPETUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE*
Monthly Memorial Service
Children Dharma School
10 Sunday Family Dharma Service
Veterans Day
17 Sunday Family Dharma Service
Children Dharma School
24 Social Concerns Service

DECEMBER

1 Sunday Family Dharma Service
7 Winter Garage Sale
8 ***Jodo-e BODHI DAY SERVICE***
14 (Saturday) Mochi Tsuki
15 Winter General Clean-up
22 Sunday Family Dharma Service
29 Sunday Family Dharma Service
31 (Tuesday) ***Joya-e Year-End Service - 6 p.m.***
New Year's Eve Refreshments

Other Activities:

Daily	Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.
MWF	Chanting at 8:30 a.m.
2 nd Thursdays	Project Dana Senior Program
2 nd Sunday	Council Meeting