



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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\*This message was presented by the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Head Priest, OHTANI Kojun during the Memorial Service Wishing for Peace conducted in front of the monument for the atomic bomb victims in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on July 3, 2015.

### 戦後 70 年によせる平和への願い

ただ今、皆さまと共に勤めいたしました「平和を願う法要」にあたり、第2次世界大戦で犠牲になられたすべての方々に対し、衷心より追悼の意を表します。

70 年前の 8 月 6 日、たった一発の爆弾によって、一瞬にして美しい広島街が破壊され、多くのかけがえのない命が失われました。また、原子爆弾のもたらした惨禍は、放射能の影響として、また痛ましい記憶として、今も多くの方々を苦しめています。このことを思うとき、あらためて人間の愚かさ、戦争の悲惨さ、原子爆弾の非道さを感じずにはられません。

私は、皆さまと共に、戦後 70 年を迎える広島で、平和への願いを新たにすることに深い意義を感じています。

第2次世界大戦が終わって 70 年が経とうとしています。しかし人類が経験したこともなかった世界規模での争いが起こったあと、70 年という歳月が、争いをもたらした深い悲しみや痛みを和らげることができたのでしょうか。そして、私たちはそこから平和への願いと、学びをどれだけ深めることができたのでしょうか。

戦争の当時を生きられた方々が少なくなっただけでなく、戦争がもたらした痛みの記憶は遠いものとなり、風化し忘れられつつあります。また先の大戦において、本願寺教団が戦争の遂行に協力したことも、決して忘れてはなりません。こうした記憶の風化に対し、平和を語り継ぐことが、戦後 70 年の今を生きる私たちに課せられた最大の責務です。よりよい未来を創造するためには、仏智に教え導かれ、争いの現実に向きあうことが基本でありましょう。

そもそも、あらゆる争いの根本には、自己を正当とし、反対するものを不当とする人間の自己中心的な在り方が根深くあります。宗祖親鸞聖人は、「煩惱具足の凡夫、火宅無常の世界は、よろづのこと、みなもつてそらごとたわごと、まことあることなし」と、人間世界の愚かさを鋭く指摘されています。私たちが互いに正義を振りかざし、主張しようとも、それはいずれも煩惱に基づいた思いであり、阿弥陀如来の真実のはたらきの前では打ち崩されてゆくよりほかはないという事でありましょう。それはまた、縁によって、どのような非道な行いもしかねないという、私たち人間の愚かさに対する警告でもあります。

いかなる争いにおいても悲しみの涙をともしなうことを、私たちは決して忘れてはなりません。受けがたい人の身を受け、同じ世界に生まれ、同じ時間を生きている私たちが、お互いを認めることができず、どうしてこの上、傷つけ合わねばならないのでしょうか。一つひとつの命に等しくかけ

られている如来の願いがあることに気付かされるとき、その願いのもとに、互いが互いを大切にし、敬い合える社会が生まれてくるのではないのでしょうか。少なくともお念仏をいただく私たちは、地上世界のあらゆる人びとが安穩のうちに生きることができる社会の実現のために、最大限の努力を惜しんではなりません。

戦後 70 年という歳月を、戦争の悲しみや痛みを忘れるためのものにしてはなりません。そして戦後 70 年というこの年が、異なる価値観を互いに認め合い、共存できる社会の実現のためにあることを、世界中の人びとが再認識する機会となるよう、願ってやみません。

2015（平成 27）年 7 月 3 日

浄土真宗本願寺派  
門主 大谷 光淳

## WISH FOR PEACE ON THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

As a special observance expressing our wish for peace, I solemnly pay tribute to the memory of all those who perished in World War II.

On August 6 seventy years ago, a single bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima devastated the beautiful city, and taking the innocent lives of many. The horrendous tragedy that the atomic bomb brought about, however, continues to remain as effects of radioactivity and as a painful memory for many to this day. In reflecting on this, I cannot help but be reminded of the stupidity of human beings, the brutality of war, and the cruelty of the atomic bomb.

This is why I feel there is deep meaning in our being able to renew our aspiration for peace together here in Hiroshima, at the very site of the atomic bombing, on this occasion of the 70th anniversary since the end of WWII.

Seventy years have passed since the conclusion of WWII. Although seventy years may have elapsed following the experiences of brutal warfare at an unprecedented global scale, have we really been alleviated from the deep sorrow and pain? As a result, has our aspiration for world peace and awareness really been deepened?

As those who experienced war firsthand become fewer, the painful memories of war becomes a thing of the past as it slowly fades away eventually becoming forgotten. We must also not forget the fact that Hongwanji at one point supported the then militarized regime's war campaign. Seventy years after WWII, it is our most important duty to pass down the memories and emphasize the importance of peace. In order to shape a brighter future, let us be guided by the teaching of the Buddha's wisdom and face the reality of the ongoing disputes constantly taking place somewhere in the world.

At the root of disputes is the notion of self-righteousness, which justifies our mindset while denouncing others who argue against us. Such human tendency filled with biased views was acutely pointed out by Shinran Shonin as, "With a foolish being full of blind passions, in this fleeting world that is empty and false, totally without truth and sincerity." In the name of justice, each individual or party is apt to persist in their legitimacy, however, their insistence is never detached from their selfish desires. However, this is inevitably shattered when illuminated by the light of Amida Tathagata's wisdom and compassion that embraces everything equally. With those words, Shinran Shonin also warns us that we all have the potential to behave inhumanely depending on the circumstances and situation.

We must take to heart that there is no war that is not accompanied with tears of sorrow. All of us equally receive birth as human beings in this world and live the same moment. Despite the bond with which we are tied together, why is it that we hurt one another, rejecting others' existence? By being aware of the Buddha's wish that is extended to all life equally, we are able to realize a society in which each life cherishes and respects others under the guidance of the Buddha's wish. At the very least, we as Nembutsu followers must do our best to actualize a society in which all people can live in peace and harmony.

We should not let the seventy years following WWII become merely a time in making the sorrow and pain of warfare to be forgotten. Rather, together with all people around the world, let us take this 70th anniversary as the opportunity to pursue the realization of a global society that mutually supports one another, where every life can coexist through acceptance of differing values. It is my hope that each of us will reconfirm this principle on this occasion.

July 3, 2015

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## PEARL CITY HONGWANJI BWA CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

After several weeks of uncertain and bad weather, Sunday, October 11, 2015 dawned sunny and clear, a perfect day to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Pearl City Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association. It was in 1915 that the Pearl City Hongwanji Fujinkai, as it was then known, was first organized under the leadership of Mrs. Kisae Aoyama, wife of Pearl City Hongwanji's first resident minister.

The Centennial Celebration began with a Commemorative Service, during which a congratulatory message from Lady Ruzumi Ohtani, honorary president of the Buddhist Women's Federation of Japan, was read by Pearl City resident minister, Rev. Mariko Nishiyama. Bishop Eric Matsumoto gave a special Dharma Message, and congratulatory messages were delivered by several honored guests, including Hawaii Kyodan President Pieper Toyama; Hawaii Federation of BWA Honorary President and President Mrs. Tamayo Matsumoto and Mrs. Janet Honda; and Oahu United BWA President Mrs. June Asato.



During the service, the Pearl City Hongwanji BWA formally presented their Centennial Commemorative gift to the temple, a beautiful set of *Uchishiki* and *Tocho* to be used for special services, and which adorned the altar for the first time that day. Following the Commemorative Service was a Keirokai in honor of the elder members of the Pearl City BWA. Fellowship and delicious food were enjoyed at the buffet luncheon which ended the day's festivities.

The theme of the Celebration, "Celebrating a Hundred Years with Gratitude," reflects the Pearl City BWA members' deep appreciation of contributions made to their organization over the years. The Pearl City Hongwanji BWA has been able to carry on projects to benefit the temple and community for 100 years due to the dedication and hard work of not only its past and present members, but also through the support and assistance of many others, such as ministers, temple members, and friends from the greater community.

(Joan Masaki, Pearl City Hongwanji BWA President)

## OAHU DISTRICT AFFIRMATION RITES CEREMONY (KIE-SHIKI)

On October 10, 2015, the Oahu Hongwanji Council held the Affirmation Rites as a commemorative event in conjunction with the Pearl City Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centennial Celebration at Pearl City Hongwanji.

Affirmation Rites is a ritual that provides the recipient an awareness of becoming a follower of the Buddha's teachings. There were 25 members from Oahu District temples who participated in receiving their Buddhist Names. The ritual was a breathtaking experience for the recipients; each of them recited the Three Treasures and Nembutsu as Bishop Matsumoto performed the ritual of giving him/her a Buddhist Dharma Name. Receiving a Dharma Name gives one a more significant and deeper meaning to being a follower of the Buddha. One of the recipients from that day summed up the sentiments of all the recipients with the following words, "I strongly urge those of you who have not yet received a Dharma Name to get one when an opportunity is available."



## HONPA HONGWANJI CONTINGENCY VISITS HONOULIULI

It was 8AM in the morning when a group of Buddhist and Shinto priests boarded a bus which departed Honolulu headed for Leeward Oahu. At a predestination stop, one could see the wide expanse of land stretching out with Diamond Head in the distance. It was a breath-taking view. However, as they got back on the bus and headed down a valley the vista changed dramatically. There was no longer the view of the spacious plains nor the blue ocean. Only the walls of the valley. It was Honouliuli, the site of a Hawaii internment camp. Through the generosity and thoughtfulness of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (Carole Hayashino, CEO) a group of clergy including Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Rev. Tatsuo Muneto and Rev. Blayne Higa of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii were granted the honor of seeing the site of (up until now) the little known Honouliuli Internment Camp. Today, through the efforts of JCCH and others, the site is registered as a national monument with the National Park System. The group heard real-life accounts of people who were interred at Honouliuli along with photographs of the camp and drawings by individuals who were interred there. Unlike 70 years ago, fortunately, that day the mosquitos were not swarming. The most visible remnants of the camp site area are pre-camp structures like the aqueduct and a stone wall which still remain today. At the close of the visitation, a short ceremony in honor of Internees was held at which various individuals were asked to read actual quotes and comments of Internees and a short closing remembrance was offered by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.



Photo: Carole Hayashino pointing to the Stone Wall

## SUMMARY OF THE PARLIAMENT OF WORLD'S RELIGIONS

Salt Lake City, Utah was the host site of the 2015 Parliament of World's Religions with 9,500 participants (unofficial count) from around the world. The 4 plenary sessions covered Income Inequality, War, Violence & Hate Speech, Climate Change and Indigenous Communities with featured speakers such as His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Dr. Karen Armstrong, Karenni Gore, and Chief Arvol Lookinghorse to name a few. The Mission



Statement of The Parliament of the World's Religions states, it "was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world." Further, its approach "seeks to promote interreligious harmony rather than unity." For it "respects, and is enriched by, the particularities of each tradition." It enable(s) "each to enter into respectful, appreciative and cooperative relationships with persons and communities of other traditions." Hawaii was present at the Parliament as interfaith friends met each other between sessions and at sessions. Bishop Eric Matsumoto attended representing the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and was honored to meet Dr. Karen Armstrong



of The Charter for Compassion (See photo). Hawaii Kyodan is a religious/spiritual partner of Charter for Compassion International. Hawaii Kyodan sponsored an ad in the Convention Booklet to promote Jodo Shinshu. Other familiar faces from Hawaii included Alan and Rosemary Goto and a few other individuals who are active in interfaith circles in Hawaii. Also, in attendance were Bishop Kodo Umezu of Buddhist Churches of America and a contingency of BCA Ministers and Bishop Tatsuya Aoki of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. BCA sponsored a booth. Rev. Jerry Hirano & his Family of Salt Lake Buddhist Temple helped to plan aspects of the Parliament, provided Buddhist invocations at the Parliament and also hosted the Jodo Shinshu participants with meals and also offered lectures at the temple on Buddhism including Jodo Shinshu and Jodo Shinshu liturgy to Parliament participants as additional programs offered by nearby entities to the Salt Palace which was the convention site. An additional treat was to be able to visit the grounds the Mormon Headquarters and the Tabernacle at which a Peace Concert was held. The atmosphere of the Parliament was filled with mutual respect and appreciation of each other. There pervaded a sense of sharing with each other so there would be mutual understanding of one another and an emphasis on how we must work together for the common good.

## PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

With the urging and assistance of the Board of Directors of The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, my wife, Rosemary, and I were extremely fortunate to take part in the Parliament of the World's Religions. This event was held from October 16 to October 20, 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah.



The Parliament invites all of the world's religions and spiritual traditions (including pagans and atheists) to join together in interreligious harmony based on respectful, appreciative and cooperative relationships with persons and communities of other traditions. The first Parliament was held in 1893 in Chicago and is recognized as the birth of a global interfaith movement. In addition to known faith traditions, this gathering for the first time recognized the beauty of Baha'i, Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism. D.T. Suzuki, the renowned Zen scholar, was one of the noted presenters.

This year's theme was RECLAIMING THE HEART OF OUR HUMANITY – Working Together for a World of Compassion, Peace, Justice and Sustainability. In addition, the Inaugural Women's Assembly focused on: (1) Responsibility of world's religions to affirm women's dignity and human rights; and (2) Share sources of religious and spiritual inspiration for women's empowerment.

People from more than 80 countries and 50 faith and spiritual traditions came together to learn about and consider solutions related to topics such as climate change, poverty and the struggle of indigenous people throughout the world. With plenary sessions and about 1,200 topical sessions over the four days, I started each

day with a 7:00 am worship and self-reflective activities (meditation, tai chi and hatha yoga), then participated in various sessions dealing with homelessness, indigenous people and the work of small local community action groups. The session presenters were excellent with experiential knowledge and participants shared their experiences with mutual respect, mindfulness and compassion.

The Parliament concluded with a call to all religious and spiritual communities to urgently work for a compassionate, peaceful, just and sustainable world. With this sense of urgency, the next Parliament will be held in two years rather than four years. The location of next gathering will announced shortly.



The Hongwanji was well represented at the Parliament. Bishop Tatsuya Aoki (Buddhist Churches of Canada), Bishop Eric Matsumoto (Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii) and Bishop Kodo Umezu (Buddhist Churches of America) represented the North American temples. In addition, Reverend Ron Kobata, Reverend Marvin Harada, Reverend Ron Miyamura and other BCA ministers conducted short Jodo Shin services for interested Parliament participants.

Reverend Jerry Hirano and his wife, Carmela, of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple hosted Parliament participants from the Hongwanji. Salt Lake sangha members welcomed us with their warm hospitality and the Hiranos opened their home for a special dinner. We certainly enjoyed our brief visit with the Salt Lake sangha and appreciate their welcoming efforts.

For me, the Parliament demonstrated that religious and spiritual people can make a difference in the world.

(Alan Goto – Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin)

## 2016 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will once again be participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.

We hope that BWA members, dharma school students and teachers, PBA faculty, staff and students, temple members and families will join us in honoring this man who was certainly an advocate for Embracing Change.

Please help to publicize this at your temples. This is the critical info:

***Date: Monday, January 18th***

***Time: Meet at Magic Island between 7:30 and 8:00 am. Parade begins at 9:00***

***Wear: purple or Hongwanji shirt***

***Route: Magic Island to Kapiolani Park***

The Pacific Buddhist Academy has generously offered to drive a bus to accommodate those who cannot walk the route.

In past years, we have handed out origami cranes along the parade route. We would appreciate donations of cranes for this event. It really helps us to connect to the bystanders.

Please join us... it's a lot of fun!

## CONDOLENCE

Mr. Sonny Abangan, who was a member of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, passed away on November 1, 2015. Mr. Sonny Abangan held the Tokudo Ordination status and he assisted the resident minister of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission as his assistant from September 1, 2002 to December 31, 2008. Mr. Abangan received the Ingo (The Posthumous Title) of Ondoku-In from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and this was presented to his family at the Funeral Service which was officiated by Rev. Kojun Hashimoto, the resident minister of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, on November 9, 2015.

## NEWS FROM PBA

Dear Hongwanji Community:

Pacific Buddhist Academy big news to share! Thanks to a pledge of 250,000,000 yen (about 2 million dollars) from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and support from you and many temples, affiliate organizations and laypeople of the Hawaii Kyodan and other friends, PBA has reached a major milestone in our journey toward a new school building! We look to break ground on our future site during the winter holiday. The groundbreaking represents growth and promise as the new facility will enable the size of the student body to increase to at least 120 and will allow numerous education programs to expand.

To celebrate this auspicious occasion with you, here is a glimpse of PBA's building design concept. Classrooms, a science lab, a tea ceremony room and other design features were all developed by keeping in mind how learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can best accommodate new generations of practitioners of peace.

We are truly grateful for your support! Your generosity has helped us guide more students toward the practice of peace and brought us much closer to our vision of PBA's future. We've reached an important next step, but there are a few more to climb, and we hope we can count on you to reach them. We anticipate a new surge in fundraising with the pledge from Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and we urge you to consider giving additional support. As our dream becomes a reality, we'll keep you informed of new milestones achieved.

Join us for the rest of the journey! Since unveiling our new educational model to families in 2003, PBA has successfully shown how an integration of peace education and Buddhist values transforms lives. Together, we have sustained a school where students aspire to academic excellence while learning such values as mindfulness, gratitude, and compassion. Now let's ensure that light shines brightly into the future. We invite you to call or write us if you would like more information.

With gratitude,



(Josh Hernandez Morse & Rüdiger Rückmann, PBA)