



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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September 2021

BISHOP'S CORNER



15th Anniversary of "Peace Day" in Hawaii

Ring Your Bell for Peace Day 2021

Bishop Eric Matsumoto

(Continued from Bishop's Corner for Headquarters Update August 2021)

To guide and inspire us, let us reflect on some insightful sayings. *"Victory creates hatred. Defeat creates suffering. The wise desire neither victory nor defeat...Anger creates anger...He who kills will be killed. He who wins will be defeated...Revenge can only be overcome by abandoning revenge...The wise seek neither victory nor defeat."* (Attributed to Sakyamuni Buddha) *"Although it is societies that make war, each society is made up of individuals. If individuals learn to live together with one another in peace and harmony, the society will be in peace and harmony. Individuals are like the nucleus and society is like the atoms. The molding of our character takes place as individuals. However, an individual cannot separate from the rest of the individuals. All have to live together. Human beings are social animals and they are always drawn to the society of other human beings. Individuals influence other individuals."* *"The first step toward bringing peace to the whole world is looking at our mind very closely and thoroughly. Watch your body and speech mindfully. Look at them every moment, every day."* *"Before you talk, see whether you are going to say something that will hurt your listener. See whether your speech will bring harmony and peace, or disharmony and suffering."* *"Cultivate peace within yourself first, and then share it with others."* (Bhante Henepola Gunaratana) *"To prevent war, to prevent the next crisis, we must begin right now. When a war or crisis has begun, it is already too late."* *"If we nourish mindfulness every day and water the seeds of peace in ourselves and those around us, we have a good chance to prevent the next war and to defuse the next crisis."* *"We have to listen to everyone, especially those we consider our enemies. When we show our capacity of listening and understanding, the other person will also listen to us...This is the beginning of healing."* (The Venerable Thich Nhat Hahn) *"In people who have long heard the Buddha's Name and said the nembutsu, surely there are signs of rejecting the evil of this world and signs of their desire to cast off evil in themselves."* (Shinran Shonin) *"At present there are people who are losing their lives in wars around the world. However, outstanding the reason, there is simply no justification for taking the life of another. Another's way of life or way of thinking may be fundamentally different than our own, but that is no reason to take a life. Life is precious."* (Monshu Emeritus Koshin Ohtani) *"How should we live?"* *"Everything in this world exists based on interdependency. When we are not aware of this, we tend to think...that our own perspective is the only one that is right and justified. This is what causes conflicts to arise."* *"In wars, international disputes, and terrorism, people become absolutely convinced that they are the only ones who are righteous and justified. As a result, they will go as far as to kill people in order to prove this point. When we arm ourselves and attack others, the peace that might be attained from it will never last long. How then, do we attain (the) peace that we seek in the world today" "...it is necessary that we first treat*

others with the same care and respect that we would show ourselves. Other people's lives are just as precious and irreplaceable as our own. We are all living interconnected with each other in some way or another." "When we become conscious that this is not just an issue that we should think about on a national level but also on a more basic and intimate one, we can begin to build a world of peace from the ground up." (Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani)

As I deeply reflect, I find that I am limited and imperfect with my reality being "Easier said than done," but we can still aspire. Ideals are important to hold in our hearts and minds even if not immediately and perfectly attainable. Let us each in our own way respond to that we are grateful for in our life with the aspiration for the peace and well-being of one and all! Please visit the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii webpage at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com> to view the 2nd Annual "Ring Your Bell for Peace Day." Thank you and Namō Amida Butsu.

CANCELLED - 2021 MINISTER'S LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT-

The Buddhist Study Center (BSC) and Ministerial Training Committee (MTC) will cancel the 2021 Minister's Lay Assistant Retreat scheduled for October 15-17, 2021. The retreat was cancelled due to the increasing COVID-19 cases and the C&C of Honolulu gathering restrictions.

If you have any questions, please call the BSC Office: (808) 973-6555

YOUTUBE CHANNEL PROGRAM

The 58th Lay Convention Keynote Address by Rick Stambul, "Shin Buddhism: A Response to Anti-Asian Racism and Hate in 21st Century America" is available to watch on the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) YouTube channel. (<https://youtu.be/QzjU7e8a60A>)

Also, the Summer Dharmathon video is available to watch on the BSC Hawaii YouTube channel. The Summer Dharmathon was the new BSC program which two ministers of Hawaii Kyodan gave their Dharma message each day (5 days) with 2021 theme and slogan: Building Healthy Sanghas: Nurturing Empathy and Respect. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUWzJg0lcuY5tdIGef9O9HQ>)

22nd Annual Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lectures

This is a learning opportunity founded by Rev. Dr. Alfred Bloom and Mrs. Dorothy Bloom, and sponsored by Hawaii Betsuin. The lecturer, Chenxing Han, will be in Honolulu, and depending on Covid precautions will participate in a HYBRID (both live, in-person and on computer virtually) program.

Date & Time: Saturday, October 16th, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (HST).

Place: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii & Zoom

Guest Lecturer: Chenxing Han, Author of "Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists"

Topic: BE THE REFUGE: Challenges and Aspirations of Young Adult Asian American Buddhists

Fee: Free

Registration: <https://forms.gle/kjSAZ3bCugc29ih97> (For reminders, updates, and Zoom link)

2021 FALL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR (HONOLULU & OAHU HONGWANJI COUNCIL)

Honolulu & Oahu Hongwanji Councils and Office of Buddhist Education will sponsor an online Nembutsu seminar in November 2021.

Date & Time: Saturday, November 6th, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (HST)
Guest Speaker: Rev. Matt Hamasaki, Buddhist Church of Sacramento
Topic: MINDFULNESS in Today's World
(Focusing on: LGBTQIA+, Stop AAPI Hate & Black Lives Matter)
Free Registration: <https://forms.gle/4JeU6LnFnfXjytuu5>
Registration Deadline: Saturday, October 30th

MONTHLY ONLINE SEMINARS BY HAWAII DISTRICT MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Since July 2021, the Hawaii District Ministers Association created a monthly online seminar. Here is their October information.

Date & Time: Saturday, October 9th, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (HST)
Guest Lecturer: Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Topic: "Embracing our Shadow: Shin Buddhist Wisdom for When Life Gets Difficult"

Registration is required. Please go to the registration link (<https://forms.gle/bQTOK62Pi6J2UoD78>). If you already have registered before, no registration is required. If you have any questions, please contact <hawaii.kyogakkai@gmail.com>

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd State Dharma School Gathering

Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021

Time: 9:30 a.m. Dharma School Service

Dharma Talk: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka (Puna Hongwanji Mission)

10:00 a.m. Breakout Room Sessions

Adult Breakout Room Speaker: Rev. Kerry Kiyohara (Makawao Hongwanji Mission)

Dharma School Breakout Rooms by age/grade

10:50 a.m. Dharma School Students and Families are excused.

11:00 a.m. Dharma School Teachers/ Educators Gathering Session (Open to all)

Guest Speaker: Mr. Pieper Toyama

12:00 p.m. Done

Platform: Zoom

Registration: <https://forms.gle/Koy9KtWq868UzbLo7>

Memo: Open Invitation to All

HAWAII DISTRICT NEMBUTSU SEMINAR 2021

Date & Time: Saturday, October 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (HST)

Place: Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Carmela Javellana Hirano, Integrative Psychiatrist and Minister's Assistant of Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.

Topic: Path of Resilience, Path of Nembutsu

Fee: Free

2021 MAUI HONGWANJI COUNCIL NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

Date & Time: Saturday, November 13th, from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and
Sunday, November 14th, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Place: Wailuku Hongwanji Mission

Guest Lecturer: Rev. Ken Fujimoto, Minister Emeritus, Buddhist Churches of America

Topic: "SHIKARASHIMU," Shinran's World of Nembutsu (A Perspective of Other Power)

Fee: \$15 – Two Days or \$10 – One Day (include lunches)

**Next HQ update will be distributed in November, due to having a new Hawaii Kyodan statewide newsletter in October. The 2022 Hawaii Kyodan master calendar will be distributed with November HQ update. We will share the master calendar with ministers and temple presidents earlier. Thank you for your understanding. Please looking forward to seeing the new statewide newsletter, Ka Leo Kāhea (The Calling Voice).*