



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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August 2022

BISHOP'S CORNER

"Ring Your Bell for Peace Day

Aspirational Message"

Bishop Eric Matsumoto



September 2022 will mark the 16th annual observance of Peace Day in Hawaii. As we know, in 2007, due to the efforts of primarily the Hawaii Federation of Jr. YBAs, the State of Hawaii officially recognized September 21st as "Peace Day" in Hawaii. Once again, this year we will host a "Ring Your Bell for Peace Day" (3rd Annual)" virtual event planned by the Peace Day Committee, chaired by Rene Mansho. Please join us (the Honpa Hongwanji Shin Buddhist Mission of Hawaii) so you can contribute to world peace as we host this bell ringing which is gaining recognition beyond Hawaii as people from the US Mainland and other parts of the world join us. More information including the free registration is found elsewhere in this Update. Please ask your family, friends and neighbors to join us too.

As I did recently at the Hiroshima Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony on the outskirts of Chinatown on August 6th, I would like to share a short message about the significance of a particular type of bell known as the bonsho in Japanese*. According to Tradition, this type of bell originated in India and in China, Korea and Japan, its sound is regarded as the Enlightened Voice of the Buddha calling out to us.

Traditionally, most people are familiar with this bonsho bell on New Year's Eve, when it is rung 108 times at Buddhist Temples to awaken us from spiritual slumber so we can start the New Year fresh. The largest bonsho bell is located at the Chion-in Temple in Kyoto, Japan. It was cast in 1636, is over 10 feet in height with a diameter of close to 9 feet and weighs 74 tons. Here in Hawaii, bonsho bells are found at the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission, Waialua Hongwanji Mission, Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin, Lahaina Jodo Mission, Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Temple, Valley of the Temples-Byodo-in Temple, Neil Blaisdell Park, Nani Mau Gardens and at the site of the Hiroshima Peace Bell to name some. The deep reverberating sound of a large bonsho bell permeates to the deepest recesses of a person's heart as its resonance passes through every cell of our bodies to reach the very core of our heart. There, it stirs the heart to become more open and receptive, sensitive and aware. A bonsho bell is not only heard, but felt.

In the case of the Hiroshima Peace Bell, the bell especially rings the message for world peace. However, from a Buddhist perspective, an important part of the message is that while we address the outward physical conditions such as the existence and growing proliferation of nuclear weapons and the clash of different political, social, cultural, economic and sometimes even religious institutions and ideologies

which can lead to skirmishes and violence and even war, let us each not forget to also look inward into our own hearts and minds for those negative feelings and emotions of hate, greed, envy, jealousy, arrogance, and fear based on our self-centered ego which are, in many cases, the cause of our unwholesome actions and behaviors.

Today, as we feel the sound of the bonsho bell may it touch our hearts, minds and bodies awakening us to the Enlightened Call of Great Wisdom which asks us to acknowledge the importance of mutual respect and appreciation and Boundless Compassion which aspires for the peace and happiness of all life and, even if ever so slightly, inspires us to move towards harmonious co-existence and the peace and well-being of all peoples of the world in the spirit of, as we say in Hawaii, kākou (us, we, all).

What is essential is an all-inclusive wisdom and all-embracing compassion to guide, nurture, and embrace us so we become more aware. May the sound of the bell resonate within our hearts, minds and bodies to stir the aspiration for world peace and harmony so we can truly acknowledge the words found in the Larger Pure Land Sutra, *“The land is prosperous and people live in peace, so there is no need to use soldiers and weapons. People respect virtue, cultivate benevolence, and diligently observe propriety and humility.”*

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

**Most Japanese Buddhist temples have a smaller kansho bell which is struck immediately before a religious service starts to let people know the service is beginning.*

OBITUARY NOTICE

Mr. Wayne Katsuyuki Nishida, a member of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission, passed away on July 12, 2022. Mr. Nishida served as the President of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission for 2 years. He was also a Dharma School teacher for many years. The Ingo of SHIN-SHIN-IN 真心院 which means “One who realized the Diamond-like True Mind.” in recognition of his life of Nembutsu was conferred by Bishop Eric Matsumoto on July 31, 2022.

Rev. Yoshikazu Saito, a retired minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, passed away on June 16, 2021 at age of 92. Rev. Saito became a Kaikyoshi Minister in March 1959 and retired in August 1998. His funeral service was held as a private service by his family. The Ingo of MYOU-KYOU-IN 明教院 which means “One Who Made Clear The Most Excellent Teaching” in recognition of his life of Nembutsu was conferred by Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Tatsuo Muneto, was relieved from the responsibility of Acting Rimban of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin and retired from being an Active Minister of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of July 31, 2022.

Rev. Yuika Hasebe, was assigned as Acting Rimban (Chief Minister) of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin as of August 1, 2022.

2022 MINISTER LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2022 MINISTER LAY ASSISTANT RETREAT – OCTOBER 8-9

After a Covid hiatus, the annual Minister Lay Assistant (MLA) Retreat will be held at the Buddhist Study Center in Honolulu on the weekend of October 8-9, 2022. It will be held in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lectures on October 7th. Please see the attached documents for more information.

The MLA Retreat program is an update for current certified MLA's as well as an opportunity for novice temple service helpers who may want to become certified. The goal is to have trained lay assistants ready to perform Dharma services in the absence of their temple minister.

The faculty this year includes Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, resident minister of Moiliili Hongwanji temple and Hongwanji-ha certified ritual instructor, and retired BCA minister Dr. Rev. Kenji Akahoshi who will lead the Dharma workshops.

Registration requires your temple minister's endorsement.

UPDATE: 3rd ANNUAL RING YOUR BELL FOR PEACE DAY

DATE: Wednesday, September 21st, 2022

TIME: Program is 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (Bell ringing is 9:01 -9:05 a.m.)

PLACE: ZOOM – International participation promoting Peace

Believe it or not, there are 640 people registered to date to participate in our annual International Peace Day virtual event, from Germany, Canada, Florida, California, Oregon, Nevada, Texas, Washington, Big Island, Maui, Kauai, and all over Oahu! Churches, schools, non-profit organizations, Hawaii Lions Clubs, a State Senator, a taiko club, and more! Last year, a total of 1,700 participants were ringing bells on Peace Day at 9:01 AM. Hope to exceed that number this year!



We will meet a Ukraine family receiving assistance in Honokaa and their message for peace.

We will meet interfaith leaders presenting the Invocation and Benediction.

We are also excited that Hawaii's Ambassador for Peace and Ukulele Virtuoso Mr. Jake Shimabukuro will be returning with another Peace Day Presentation.

Thanks to our Jr. YBA President Chad Okawa organizing our youth's participation, we look forward to more folks registering and we will all be ringing our bells for peace for 5 minutes around the world!

Please spread the word and share the link to register: <http://bit.ly/PeaceDay2022>

All registered participants will receive the "Ring Your Bells for Peace Day" link for September 21st, 2022, For questions contact Rene Mansho, (808)291-6151, renemansho@hawaii.rr.com

2022 LAY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Date: September 16th – 17th, 2022

Place: Zoom

I am so excited to see 22 temples have registered for an exciting convention: **“Re-Connecting With the Sangha”** will be filled with the energies of members and friends from these early bird temples:

Hawaii Betsuin, Jikoen, Moiliili, Windward, Aiea, Ewa, Mililani, Pearl City, Wahiawa, Waialua, Waianae, Waipahu, Kahului, Lahaina, Lanai, Makawao, Wailuku, Hilo Betsuin, Honohina-Papaalooa, Honokaa, Honomu, Kamuela, Kona, Papaikou, and Puna Hongwanji.

We anxiously await 10 more temples to sign up for an engaging and forward-looking effort with inspiring discussions, thought provoking keynote speaker, and a chance to consider new ideas! Don't miss it! The future of our Hongwanji Ohana needs you!

2022 Lay Convention Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/2022laycon/home>

Register and send in forms to: OahuLay@gmail.com

Deadline to register and order booklets is August 27th, 2022.

Last chance registration is September 11th, 2022.

For questions, contact Rene Mansho, (808)291-6151 or renemansho@hawaii.rr.com

PBA LIGHTING OUR WAY BANQUET

Reserve Your Seats for Lighting Our Way Now!

Pacific Buddhist Academy's Lighting Our Way Banquet will be held on Friday, October 7, 2022, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Waialae Country Club.



PBA's Lighting Our Way banquet recognizes inspirational individuals and organizations exemplifying leadership principles and values of the school such as selfless service to others, gratitude, and compassion. We are pleased to announce that our honorees for 2022 are Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch, Dr. David Lassner, Pieper and Lois Toyama, and Pacific American Foundation. Along with featuring the community achievements of these honorees, this year PBA celebrates 20 years since the opening of the school in 2003.

You can become a sponsor, purchase individual tickets, or make a donation to support the Banquet by going to PBA's Banquet website, <https://pacificbuddhistacademy.org/giving/lighting-our-way>

Many thanks for supporting our wonderful honorees. We hope you can join us!

OAHU DISTRICT FALL SEMINAR

Date: Saturday, September 24th, 2022

Time: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Mililani Hongwanji, 95-257 Kaloapau Street, Mililani & online via Zoom

Presenter: Dr. Rosalie Tatsuguchi (licensed psychologist)

Topic: "VIOLENCE FROM A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE"

Please see the flyer attached for details.

Online Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/zn34Lbofy25KFXsG8>

Or fill in the registration form & mail to: Mililani Hongwanji

Registration Deadline: September 17th, 2022

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR BY HAWAII DISTRICT MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Hawaii District Ministers Association will host a Nembutsu seminar in October 2022.

Date: Saturday, October 1st, 2022

Time: Part 1) 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Part 2) 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin Sangha Hall, 398 Kilauea Ave. Hilo

Guest Lecturer: Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Resident Minister, Oregon Buddhist Temple)

Topic: Shinjin & The life of the person of Shinjin

Platform: In-person & online via Zoom

Registration Fee: \$10 with lunch (in-person) or \$5 for zoom online

Please see the flyer attached for details.

Online Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/6bzU7xF2gRpriEMJ9>

HMH HQ BOOKSTORE UPDATE

New Monto Shikisho is available!

The *Shikisho* is the simplified version of the traditional formal wear. Modeled after a minister's wagesa, the overall size has been reduced and two ends tied together by a decorative cord. Members are encouraged to wear the *shikisho* whenever participating in services or other Buddhist observances.

Quote from "*Jodo Shinshu a Guide*" by Hongwanji, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

The Honzan in Japan released a newly designed *Monto-Shikisho* in commemoration of "The 850th Anniversary of the Birth of Shinran Shonin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching". Of elegant gold color and azuki bean color, its pattern consists of pine needles woven within a ginkgo leaf-shaped silhouette. The pine needle design represents the birth name of Shinran Shonin, "Matsuwaka" which is composed of the two Chinese character for 'pine and 'young'. The ginkgo leaf pattern is associated with the ginkgo tree the stands on the Inada Gobo temple grounds where Shinran Shonin is believed to have written his lifework, *Kyogyoshinsho*. The continuous design of the



background pattern expresses the bonds of connection between Nembutsu followers through the ages embraced by Shinran Shonin's Nembutsu path.

The shikisho is available at \$45.00 each at the HHMH Bookstore now! It's great to wear the shikisho at the Joint Celebration at Honzan in the Spring of 2023 and for the 2024 Triple (850th /800th /135th) Celebration service in Hawaii. If you are interested in the special commemoration shikisho, please stop by the HHMH Bookstore in the HQ office during the business hours or contact us by email hqbooks@honpahi.org or call (808) 522-9202. Thank you.