



“The Calling Voice”

Ka Leo Kāhea

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2022

Official Publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



A large group attended the Aloha reception on May 20, 2022. (Courtesy of Peace Committee, Honoka'a Hongwanji Buddhist Temple)

Compassion in Action: Honoka'a Hongwanji adopts five Ukrainian families

By PEACE COMMITTEE, HONOKA'A
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

“After Ukraine was invaded in February, members of our Sangha asked, ‘what can we do?’” says Miles Okumura, President at Honoka'a Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. “Through various connections—relatives, friends, and friends of friends—we were introduced to families who were seriously in need of help. It was surprisingly easy to reach out in this way, and it reminds me how interconnected we all are. It's a human 'ohana, and we want to continue to help.”

Marharyta (can be pronounced “Margarita”) Obodovska has recently moved from Ukraine to Hawai'i Island with her two daughters, Darya and Liza. While the girls' father stayed behind, fighting on the front lines, Marharyta and the girls fled to Poland. Eventually, they were

able to obtain a tourist visa, and now live with her sister Olena in Hilo. In May, they were welcomed to the island with a special lei greeting by the Honoka'a Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and treated to a shopping spree in the temple's thrift store.

The Obodovska 'ohana is one of the five Ukrainian refugee families that the Honoka'a Hongwanji Buddhist temple is assisting, along with two others in Ukraine, and one each in Poland and Czechoslovakia. They were able to raise \$3,000 for these families during the temple's Buddha's Birthday Party event. Details about the other families are:

- Anna fled Kiev after a missile attack, with 11 of her 13 children (10 of which are adopted). Her husband and two oldest boys had to remain in the Czech Republic.

- Oksana and her two boys currently live in a refugee camp, where she is a psychologist. Her husband is a battalion com-

mander.

- Tatiana lost her home when a rocket struck her apartment building. Her husband passed away in April, and Tatiana, her children and grandchildren moved into an abandoned house with no running water or electricity.

- Veronika and her husband were both music teachers before the war. They and their 11-month-old son live in an empty home with no utilities. Honoka'a Hongwanji's initial fundraiser enabled them to install running water to the house.

Says Miles, “It is wonderful to know that our little community can make a big difference to people who we have come to know personally—and the circle continues to grow, as we learn of new families who need assistance, and we wish to do more.”

The fundraising program received a boost when the

SEE PAGE 8

A New Monto Shikisho is available at HHMH Bookstore!



The *shikisho* is a simplified version of a *kesa* for lay members. 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.

—from *Jodo Shinshu: A Guide* by Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

The Honzan in Japan released 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, which will be held in Kyoto, Japan in 2023.

The commemorative design features two crests that are embossed over a reddish-brown brocade background. The background pattern consists of pine needles woven within a ginkgo leaf-shaped silhouette. The two crests are comprised of the *sagarifuji* (hanging wisteria) and *tsuru* (crane) motifs.

The *tsuru* crest showing two facing cranes has been adopted from the crest of the aristocratic Hino family into which Shinran Shonin was born. The pine needle design represents the birth name of Shinran Shonin, Matsuwaka,

SEE PAGE 3

HHMH Living Treasures 2023

By CINDY ALM,
HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

The Living Treasures of Hawai'i, sponsored annually by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i, has selected as honorees for the 48th event year Fred Keakaokalani Cachola, Jr., Fredrick Nonaka, Hiromi Nakai Peterson, and Peter Young.

They have demonstrated excellence and high achievement in their particular field of endeavor, and have made significant contributions toward enriching our society through continuous growth, learning and sharing.

Awards will be presented at a luncheon at the Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village on February 11, 2023.

Fred Keakaokalani Cachola, Jr. served as director of Kamehameha School's newly created Extension Education Division for 25 years. He has been a local, state and national advocate for native Hawai'i cultural and historic preservation and restoration.

Frederick Shigeru Nonaka has been a successful landscape contractor for 50 years. He has devoted countless volunteer hours to the Honpa Hongwanji and Hawai'i community. Along with Bishop Chikao Yosemori, he co-founded Pacific Buddhist Academy, the first Shin Buddhist high school in the United

SEE PAGE 8

Honpa Hongwanji Judo Federation

By FRANCIS UYENO, HONPA HONGWANJI JUDO FEDERATION AND CURTIS TAKAI, HILO HONGWANJI JUDO CLUB

The Honpa Hongwanji Judo Clubs judokas (practitioners of judo) are finally getting back to the dojos after over two years of absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to be able to have our annual Honpa Hongwanji Championship Judo tournament which has been suspended since the pandemic started in 2020.

Following is a brief history of judo and the Honpa Hongwanji Judo Federation.

Judo, “the gentle way” has been a part of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii since its inception in 1957. Judo was founded by Jigoro Kano, an educator, in 1882 in Japan. Judo became an Olympic sport in the 1964 Japan Olympics. In Hawaii, the first tournament was held on



Hilo Hongwanji Judo Club in the Hilo Betsuin. (Courtesy of Curtis Takai)

Oahu in 1958, and the second tournament on November 26, 1959 at Hilo Civic Auditorium.

The late Rev. Tsuumei Murakami was one of the people at the forefront of organizing the

Honpa Hongwanji Judo Federation in 1957. This Federation was headquartered in Honolulu. Rev. Murakami came to Hilo Hong-

SEE PAGE 7



BY REV. ERIC MATSUMOTO
BISHOP
HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION
OF HAWAII

A longstanding Buddhist tradition continues to be perpetuated in Hawaii. Dana, or selfless giving, is one of the most important Buddhist customs and virtues. It has existed since the days of the Historic Sakyamuni Buddha and is practiced in lands and places where Buddhism exists.

The Teaching of Buddha shares this (slightly adapted) message: “*The Buddha’s Sangha will have two types of*

Thank You for Your Kokua Dana!

BISHOP'S CORNER

members: there will be those who are teaching...and those who are supporting.... They together will disseminate and perpetuate the teaching. Then, to make the Sangha complete, there must be perfect harmony among the members.... Members of the Buddha’s Sangha should associate together with empathy, being happy to live together with fellow-followers, and seek to become one in spirit.”

For centuries, the appreciative generosity of lay members has provided for the livelihood of religious teachers so they could focus their time and energy on sharing the Dharma. Thus, Buddhism as an organization has been able to continue in various parts of the world including Hawaii.

Even in the case of Shinran Shonin, he was ever so grateful for the support he received from others as evidenced by his words of gratitude ex-

pressed in some of his Letters. For example, he wrote, “...I wish to acknowledge your kind gift...which I humbly accept.” “I have gratefully received...your gift... I wish also to acknowledge receiving some time ago, from some of the people there, offerings made at the nembutsu meetings. Please convey my gratitude to the people.”

It is heartening that many temples and temple leaders did take to heart the practical guidance provided in *The Teaching of Buddha*, in regards to one’s earnings: “*Some of it must be shared with others, some of it must be saved for an emergency, some of it must be set aside for the needs of the community, and some of it must be devoted to the needs of religious teachers.*” As such, some of our temples are financially secure and we have been able to provide for our ministers.

Earlier in 1971, Honpa

Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) established the Capital Fund in hopes that it would be able to sustain our future operations. It does partially; it aids us every year to fund our expenses by lessening the assessments. However, the Capital Fund has not reached a level to completely sustain us as originally hoped. Today, as we face dwindling and aging membership and also a change in people’s spending habits, there is a dire need for alternate sources of income to sustain, annually and perpetually, the HHMH.

HHMH includes the Headquarters Office which serves as the central hub keeping all of us connected (locally, nationally and internationally). It includes all of our operations, programs and projects (such as Living Treasures of Hawaii, Peace Day, Social Concerns, Buddhist Education programs). In addition,

it provides education, compensation, and benefits for ministers and lay staff. Please note that the importance of HHMH goes beyond our own selves as a denomination; it brings significant benefit to the larger community of Hawaii.

Since our very beginnings in 1889, the HHMH has contributed greatly and immensely to the fabric, development, and course that Hawaii has taken. It has done so with the Buddha-Dharma, shared by ministers or religious teachers, guiding and nurturing us, and with the generosity of the lay sangha members who have supported the organization for close to 135 years. In *The Companies We Keep 3: More Amazing Stories About Hawaii’s People, Places and Companies* by Bob Sigall, the author comments, “*They spread Buddha’s message of*

SEE PAGE 7

Let us recite the Nembutsu just as we are



BY REV. MASANARI YAMAGISHI
KAMUELA, HONOKAA, KOHALA,
AND PA’AUULO HONGWANJI
MISSION

We often recite the Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*, when in front of Amida Buddha. This is the calling of Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha moves towards us and the working comes from Amida Buddha. We recite the Nembutsu because of the working of Other-power, not by our self-centered effort. The dynamic working is directed from Amida Buddha to us, not from us to Amida Buddha.

*Seeing the sentient beings of the nembutsu
Throughout the world, countless as particles, in the ten quarters,
The Buddha grasps and never abandons them,
And therefore is named Amida.*

— “Hymns of the Pure Land” (CWS p. 347)

The word *namo* literally means “I entrust myself to you,” but this must be understood as “entrust yourself to me” since this is the calling voice of Amida Buddha. We receive this calling, and then realize and entrust ourselves to Amida Buddha’s Wisdom and Compassion by reciting “*Namo Amida Butsu.*” Furthermore, the meaning of “dynamic working” is “all-embracing around the world.” “Amida” means Infinite Light and Infinite Life.

It has been a year and a half since I moved to the Big Island for my assignment. I am now assigned to four Hongwanji temples: Kamuela, Honokaa, Kohala, and Pa’auilo, in the northern part of the Big Island. This area is so beautiful to me, with lots of green nature and animals such as cows, horses, sheep, and goats. I

pay attention to never hit animals, vehicles, or pedestrians while driving. I enjoy my life every day, thanks to all of the Sangha’s support.

Kamuela Hongwanji is near a cherry blossom park, and I see Mauna Kea every day. I made new friends, and they often call me while I’m shopping or at a restaurant in town.

Honokaa Hongwanji is in a Japanese historical town with a beautiful ocean view. Our temple has a project for the local people called “Feeding our Keiki and Kupuna.”

Kohala Hongwanji is at the north end of the island beside a huge pippala tree—a bodhi tree. The temple has interfaith community programs.

Pa’auilo Hongwanji has an afterschool activity every weekday. It sits next to the Japanese Cemetery on a small hill.

When I see nature on the Big Island and the Sangha at the four temples, I often remember that all Buddhas in the universe watch over us all; the mountains, rivers, ocean, forest, sky, and even animals. Of course, the people of the Big Island love to look at Mauna Kea as a holy mountain, and she warmly watches over the people with a gentle mind and heart. All islands in Hawaii are surrounded by the embracing arms of the ocean. Mauna Kea and the ocean have been watching over us, our parents, our grandparents, and our ancestors for a long time.

Kojun Ohtani, the 25th generation Gomonshu-sama, reveals the following in his book titled *Moving Forward Just as You Are*:

“We interpret Amida Buddha to mean, “The dynamic working that reveals to us true reality.”

The true reality does not distinguish between the atmosphere, ocean, vegetation, wildlife, and all other natural phenomena and humans. Moreover, “true reality” is the world of the Buddha that transcends human conceptual thinking. We express ourselves by voicing many words. But children who learn to speak for the first time cannot spontaneously begin using a certain word which they never heard of. It is only when they hear their family members or other people using the word, and begin to mimic them, do they slowly become familiar with and use that particular word themselves. *Namo Amida Butsu* in this sense is no exception. This is why we should think of the Name as the word given to us from Amida Buddha that expresses this dynamic working.”

Amida Buddha and all the buddhas in the universe embrace everyone around the world here and now. The buddhas grasp and never abandon us. Let us recite the Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*, just as we are.

Ministerial Training Fund (MTF)

BY REV. TOSHIYUKI UMITANI
CHAIR, HHMH SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The establishment of the Ministerial Training Fund (MTF) was adopted at the 1969 Giseikai (Honpa Hongwanji Legislative Assembly) with the wish that the fund would be used to “encourage and assist persons of deserving interest and qualities to enter the Buddhist ministry.” According to the 1969 Giseikai minutes, those who participated in the Giseikai made the first voluntary contributions to the MTF. The entire collection of \$141 was presented to Bishop Kanmo Imamura.

Since its inception, the MTF has provided financial assistance to ministerial aspirants who wish to serve Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) as fully-ordained ministers, and to active ministers to obtain needed education and training to more effectively serve the needs of HHMH.

As we often say, “It takes a village



Blayne Nakasone, ministerial aspirant

to raise a child,” ministers can dedicate their lives to sharing the Dharma because of the many causes and conditions that warmly support and nurture them, including support

from the MTF.

From 2016-2020, the MTF provided a total of \$185,000 to ministerial aspirants and active ministers. We express our sincere appreciation to the temples, organizations, and individuals who have supported the MTF over the years. We would like to ask for your continued support to ensure a bright future for the next generations of HHMH. Your financial contribution is greatly appreciated.

Below, please find a message from Rev. Blayne Nakasone, who is one of the current MTF recipients.

Through the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii’s Ministerial Training Fund, I have been able to further my studies in all aspects of Jodo Shinshu for my preparation to become a minister in Hawaii. To highlight the support of the HHMH through this Ministerial Training Funds, I would like to share what I have been able to accomplish within

SEE PAGE 8

Ka Leo Kāhea

(USPS Permit #9044)

Official Publication of the Honpa
Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
Published four times a year.

Honpa Hongwanji
Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Hwy.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel: (808) 522-9200

www.hongwanjihawaii.com
Email: hqs@honpah.org

The Ka Leo Kāhea provides a variety of articles on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism for Hawaii residents.

The Ka Leo Kāhea, a quarterly newspaper published by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, features organizational news and experiences by Jodo Shinshu members, and a variety of articles relating to Buddhist principles.

Editorial rights are reserved to postpone, edit, or withhold from publication anything submitted which does not meet those specifications or the specifications of the editorial staff.

The meaning of any submission will not be altered, but we reserve the right to correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation when necessary.

Editor: Rev. Eric Matsumoto
Managing Editor: Edythe Vassall
Print Production: Jeffrey Kimoto

Taking Time to Appreciate the Dharma



BY DR. WARREN TAMAMOTO
PRESIDENT
HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION
OF HAWAII

Aloha kākou! Welcome to the fifth edition of *Ka Leo Kāhea* (The Calling Voice). I hope that you are doing well physically, mentally and spiritually in this continuing period of the COVID-19 pandemic. The global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continues to challenge us. We are extremely fortunate to have safe and effective medical treatments such as vaccines and antiviral medications readily available to us. However, the SARS-CoV-2 virus has proven to be adaptable and

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

elusive. Often we are reminded that new variants of the virus have appeared, and, the illness it causes is not always mild. As a result, we continue to see that the pandemic inflicts physical, social and emotional turmoil upon our communities.

However, as we near the end of the third year of this pandemic, we should take a moment to stop and appreciate our situation. We are still here! We are alive and grateful to be here today. We have proven ourselves to be adaptable as well—as individuals and as a statewide organization. We communicate regularly (and perhaps more frequently) via text, email and Zoom. Our committees conserve resources by doing the majority of their work remotely. As we continue our work, we are aware and grateful that we are here, not just by our own efforts, but also through the efforts of many others, known and unknown to us.

While preparing for a presentation to one of our temples, I read an article

in a little book called *Crossing Over to Jodo Shinshu*. You may not have heard of this book which was published this year by the Jodo Shinshu International Office. It is a small book and very easy to read. It is composed of 13 short essays written by different people. It doesn't contain details of the history and doctrine of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. In this book, 13 people share with us their path to learning about and finding a home in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The stories are different, yet they are very similar.

Arturo Rubin was raised in Christian household. He tells us that, for him, the seeds of Buddhism were planted over many years in high school history class and in college world religion classes. The Buddhist concepts of impermanence and interdependence meshed with his personal experience and resonated with him.

Of his college world religion classes, he said, "I learned a lot about all the main religions and some I never knew existed. Each religion had something beautiful to teach, but again, I felt especially attracted to Buddhism. A

religion that doesn't demand blind faith and unquestioned compliance to entrenched dogmas, and instead compels me to benefit from reason and experience. A religion that put a name to concepts that I had thought about many years prior, impermanence and interdependence. Buddhism just made a lot of sense to me."

Arturo visited a variety of temples and found that the people he met at the Jodo Shinshu temple were warm and inviting without necessarily trying to convert him. He attended discussions on Buddhism at the temple and found them to be stimulating. Eventually he decided to participate in a *Kieshiki* or Buddhist naming ceremony. He became a Buddhist.

My message to you today is that every one of us can plant the seeds of Buddhism in people we meet every day, in different ways. For example, simply putting our hands together in gassho before meals and expressing our gratitude for the many hands that brought our food before us models good behavior for our children and grandchild-

dren. We can be warm and open to people that we meet (yes, even to strangers in the right situation). We can be kind to people, especially those who are in need of help.

You may already be helping to plant seeds of Buddhism by supporting your temple's varied activities and donating to your temple. Thank you and please continue. Many of the writers in the book *Crossing Over to Jodo Shinshu* developed an interest in Buddhism by participating in Dharma classes or Dharma discussion groups at a temple. Taking time to appreciate the Dharma and finding joy in the Dharma is essential to building a healthy Sangha. If your temple doesn't have regular Dharma discussion groups, please work with your minister and start one.

As we end the year 2022 with Thanksgiving, Bodhi Day, holiday get-togethers and look forward to the New Year, I thank you all for your continued support of your temple and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. I hope to see many of you in person in 2023!

In Gassho.

The Ocean Connects Us!



Panelists, Jocelyn Howard, Gloria Lani, and Innocenta Sound-Kikku. (Photo courtesy of Wendie Yumori)

BY WENDIE YUMORI, HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAII BETSUIN AND LOIS TOYAMA, JIKOEN HONGWANJI MISSION

The theme of the 2022 Honolulu United Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) virtual Joint Education and Membership Conference in August was "The Ocean Connects Us!" The conference experience made the 2022 Hongwanji slogan "Building Healthy Sanghas: Connecting with Others" come alive.

The education session opened with an eight-minute clip of the play, "Masters of the Currents" (TeAda Productions), which explained why many people leave their island homes in Micronesia to live in Hawaii. It also highlighted the problems they face here, such as physical safety in a new community and difficulty staying culturally grounded.

The panel discussion which followed featured three Pacific Island women leaders: Innocenta Sound-Kikku and Jocelyn Howard from different islands in Chuuk State, and Gloria Lani from an island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

With great sincerity and warmth, they shared their deep connections to their home islands, to their families and clans, and to their values and tradi-

tions. They also described the programs they initiated in their communities to encourage youth to find sustenance, purpose, courage, and unity in the values and traditions of their home islands.

Thanks to these cultural navigators, Innocenta, Gloria, and Jocelyn, who shared their stories with aloha, participants were able to meet, make heartfelt connections, and see the stars together.

When participants were asked to give examples of Dharma connections they made during the conference, many mentioned the teaching of interconnectedness. One comment was, "... they (panelists), too, feel that everything is interconnected. I also felt a deep sense of compassion from them." Gratitude was another recurring theme. As one member said, "These women expressed their gratitude often in their talk. It reminds me to live with gratitude also."

Throughout the state, the BWA supports activities that promote connections within the Sangha and connections with the community. We'd love to connect with you! To see the many ways BWA groups are actively involved statewide, please check out our newsletter on the website: hawaiiibwa.org. With warmest aloha, we invite you to join us.

HMH Issues Statement on the Right to Reproductive Freedom

BY BISHOP REV. ERIC MATSUMOTO
HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII
AND REV. BLAYNE HIGA, CHAIR,
HHMH COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
CONCERNS

We deeply lament the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, curtailing the ability of individuals especially women to make reproductive healthcare decisions for themselves.

The issue of abortion should not be seen in dualistic absolutes. The Dharma teaches us to value the preciousness of all life or existence regardless of the form. However, we also know there are various causes and conditions, some beyond the immediate control of any one individual, which factor into the personal and private decision to end a pregnancy. Thus, we should refrain from unfairly judging the decisions made by another. As such, we believe the agency of an individual should be respected and honored, as we each have the capacity to make informed and responsible decisions for ourselves based on circumstances.

Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Shin Buddhism affirmed the complexities of life and how difficult it is for us to discern the wholesome from the unwholesome. This is why we go to the Dharma (Teachings) for guidance

and are unconditionally embraced by the non-discriminative Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha which surrounds one and all beyond the distinctions that our human minds may make.

The Court's decision to eliminate federal protections for abortion will deepen inequality in our country, as many individuals and communities already face inconsistent access to quality health care services. Especially at risk are Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other communities of color who will encounter worsening health and economic disparities. Women's reproductive health services should be considered basic health care.

We acknowledge the pain, fear, and hurt that so many in our country are experiencing. We will continue to support the spiritual and bodily autonomy of women and others to make informed decisions about their own reproductive health.

Guided by the Buddha's Teachings, we believe complex and difficult decisions should be made with compassion, empathy, responsibility, humility, and an understanding of an individual's sometimes extraordinary circumstances.

May we live with a vision of mutuality and act from an understanding of our profound interconnectedness with kindness and respect for all.

Monto Shikisho

Continued from Page 1

which is composed of two Chinese characters 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 life-work, *Kyogyoshinsho*.

The continuous design of the background pattern expresses the bonds of connection between Nembutsu followers through the ages embraced by Shinran Sho-

nin's Nembutsu path.

The *shikisho* is now available for \$45 each at the HHMH Bookstore. It will be great to wear the *shikisho* at the Joint Celebration Service at Honzan in the spring of 2023 and also at the Triple Celebration Service (also celebrating the 135th anniversary of Jodo Shinshu in Hawaii) in 2024.

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.

Hiroshima Commemoration and Peace Service Returns Successfully

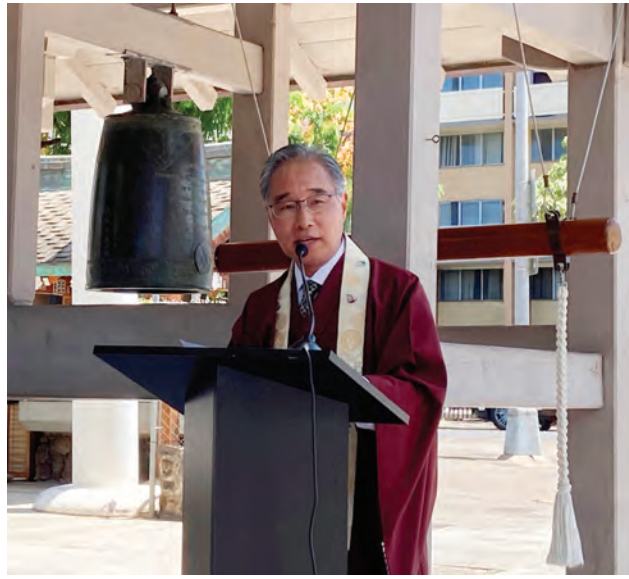
By HIROSHIMA COMMEMORATION AND PEACE COMMITTEE

After an absence of two years due to concerns posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hiroshima Commemoration and Peace Service was held on Saturday, August 6, 2022 to honor the victims of the tragic bombing of Hiroshima 77 years ago.

The organizing committee was comprised of Reverend Jun Miyasaka and Karlton Tomomitsu of the Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii; Wayne Miyao, Chairman of the Hiroshima-Hawaii Sister State Committee and President of the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai; and Greg Waibel, President and CEO of the YMCA of Honolulu. All were pleased that the ceremony was greeted by beautiful sunny weather, enthusiastic speakers, and an interested audience.

The purpose of the service is to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and those whose lives are affected by the unprecedented bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The service began with a Shinto purification and blessing conducted by Bishop Daiya Amano of the Izumo Taishakyo Mission with English translation provided by Reverend Jun Miyasaka.

During the program, several religious leaders provided messages and prayers for peace including Reverend Takamasa Yamamura of the Hawaii Myohoji Mission, who also performed a vocal solo (he is a well-known tenor), a Buddhist message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, a Jewish message by



Bishop Eric Matsumoto (left) and interfaith attendees at the event. (Photos courtesy of Rev. Daido Baba)



Rabbi-Cantor Cheri Weiss of the Temple Emanu El, and a Christian message by Dr. Kahu Kaleo Patterson of the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center. The Center also provided a musical offering by the Pacific Peace Choir, led by Kahu Umi Sexton.

A special presentation was made by Dr. Roy Tamashiro, Professor Emeritus of Webster University in Missouri. He spoke on "Homage to Hiroshima, Homage to Life." Many of his professional presentations and publications describe a global peace pilgrimage inspired by the legacy of the survivors or *hibakusha* and their successors, *denshosa*. Tamashiro reflected that, on the second anniversary of the tragic bombing of Hiroshima, then Hiroshima City Mayor Shinzo Hamai announced, "We renew our commitment to the establishment of peace by celebrating a peace festival." He further elaborated, "We commemorate today, August 6, solemnly inaugurating a festival of peace, despite the limitless sorrow in our mind. In this way, our Homage to Hiroshima today is an

Homage to Life. Join together to sweep away the horror of war, to renounce war eternally, and to build a true peace."

Additionally, we were fortunate to have State of Hawaii Representative Bertrand Kobayashi as a special speaker. He was a member of the YMCA of Honolulu's first student exchange delegation to Hiroshima in 1962. Inspired that the City and County of Honolulu and Hiroshima City established a sister-city relationship in 1959, which was one of the first such relationships between a city in the United States with a city in Japan, the YMCA of Honolulu and the Hiroshima YMCA established the "Let's Get Together" student exchange program in 1961. Bertrand Kobayashi was selected to be one of the student "ambassadors" to travel to Hiroshima in 1962. They are now commemorating the 60th anniversary of this historical student exchange, considered the longest running program between YMCAs in Japan and the United States! As related by Representative

Kobayashi, "When I visited in 1962, many of the victims of the bombing or *hibakusha* were still alive. Meeting them was an emotional and gut-wrenching experience. The desire for peace is very strong in Hiroshima."

Finally, our keynote speaker, Tom Leatherman, Superintendent, Pearl Harbor National Memorial spoke on the theme "Finding Peace by Honoring the Lives that Were Lost." Superintendent Leatherman said that he has been involved with World War II historical sites since 2005, when he served as superintendent of Manzanar National Historical Site, a Japanese American incarceration site in California. "At Manzanar, it is a powerful experience to be standing at a site where American citizens of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned without due process."

He further commented, "We, as the National Park Service, preserve these World War II stories, from the good, to the bad parts of our shared history. As the Superintendent of Pearl Harbor National Memorial, I have the humbling responsi-

bility of taking care of one of the most significant sites related to our country's involvement in WWII."

Tom Leatherman concluded his message with the following, "On this day, as we reflect on and commemorate the devastation at Hiroshima 77 years ago, we must see the connection between Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Pearl Harbor. We must learn as much as we can about these events and we must find a way to use this knowledge and compassion we gain to prevent something like this from ever happening again, to anyone. Only when we have learned this lesson can we truly honor those who lives were lost, both here on Oahu and in Japan. Only then can we find peace."

The program ended with the ringing of the Hiroshima Peace Bell by all participants and attendees.

With the success of this year's program, plans have already been initiated for the 2023 service. The organizing committee welcomes the attendance and support of all for their future programs!

Interfaith Peace Gathering at Nagasaki Peace Bell in Honolulu

By DEXTER MAR

HONPA HONGWANJI HAWAII
BETSUIN

To remember and appreciate 77 years of nuclear restraint since the Nagasaki atomic bomb attack, on August 9, 2022, the 4-Petals Peace Partnership of Quaker, Buddhist, Catholic, and Protestant peace advocates gathered at the Nagasaki Peace Bell located at Honolulu Hale Park for the 15th consecutive year. Quarterly Peace Services rotate between the multi-faith sponsors to express our joint affirmations for peace, mindfulness, and a blossoming from our common humanity.

This annual vigil usually includes a walk from Hawaii Betsuin to the Nagasaki Peace Bell, but due to COVID-19 precautions, only the gathering at the Peace Bell was held this year. Bishop Eric Matsumoto offered the following Aspiration.

Aspiration

By Bishop Eric Matsumoto, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii – August

9, 2022 – Nagasaki Peace Bell Memorial

As we gather today, regardless of national origin, ethnicity, and religious affiliation, let us reflect and rededicate ourselves to world peace and harmony, to a world that is free of nuclear weapons of destruction and there is deep respect for human life. May we be guided and inspired by Enlightened Wisdom and Compassion.

Today, I would like to share some insights and a famous Buddhist parable from the Pure Land Buddhist Tradition known as the "Parable of the Two Rivers and the White Path." Our predicament is described as a lonely lost traveler walking alone where I find myself trapped between two raging rivers of fire and water which are engulfing me. Our reality is that many are not even aware of the raging waters of greed and the raging fires of anger which threaten all of us. Some people are aware of it, but don't know what to do and thus are in deep despair. According to the parable, Sakyamuni Buddha, the historic Buddha, is encour-



Meditation at the Nagasaki Peace Bell. (Courtesy of Rev. Daido Baba)

aging us to seek refuge in an All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion, Amida, which calls out to each and every one of us, especially to those of us who are living in these Latter Days when 1) wars and natural disasters abound, 2) there is a confusion of values, 3) there is increased anger, greed and ignorance, 4) inferior quality of human life including egotism, and 5) the wasting and shortening of human life.

Does this not sound like our world today with all the racial discrimination, political chaos, natural disasters including the Pandemic, wars including gun violence related to mass

shootings, etc., which are affecting all of us very negatively? So many people, in general, are reacting to all these situations with such intensity, division, and hate. My thought is how crucial it is for all of us, instigators and victims, to respond and not react to people and situations. Here is where Buddhism with its teachings of being mindful and reflection including reflecting on oneself to see how easy it is for the "ugly" side of me to appear becomes really meaningful and relevant. So, we can, as much as possible, respond and not react.

Further, let us not lose hope. As one source ex-

plains, although it is the Latter Days, "typically this was not a cause for despair, because this scheme was accompanied by teachings that the Buddha, having foreseen the coming of this dark age, had provided beforehand... (that) which were suitable for the time." Our rescue is a Wisdom and Compassion which includes everyone and everything in its embrace and tempers our negativity with awareness and where in gratitude of Great Compassion and deep lament of my limited self, we respond to it by embracing the aspiration for peace and harmony in the world for both self and others by awakening to True Reality.

May we all be guided, nurtured and embraced by All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion so that as another sutra states, "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."

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

2022 Nembutsu Seminar Held in Hilo

By **EDYTHE VASSALL**
HONPA HONGWANJI HILO
BETSUIN

The 2022 Buddhist Education Nembutsu Seminar titled “Shinjin and the Life of the Person of Shinjin” was held at the Sangha Hall Conference Room and on Zoom on Saturday, October 1, 2022. The guest lecturer was Rev. Yuki Sugahara, resident minister of the Oregon Buddhist Temple. His lecture was followed by lunch and then an hour of Dharma discussion.

Rev. Sugahara comes from a temple family, with his home temple in Shimane, Japan. He plays electric guitar and used to belong to a rock band in Japan. He still plays solo and also practices martial arts. After introducing himself, Rev. Sugahara described his personal path to becoming a Jodo Shinshu minister.

The seminar topic of shinjin is not easy to explain, so Rev. Sugahara began with the basics of Buddhism. He answered the very broad question: What is Buddhism? with a teaching from the *Dhammapada*: Doing no evil, engaging in what’s skillful, and purifying one’s mind: this is the teaching of the buddhas.

For Shin Buddhists, it also

includes knowing ourselves through hearing Amida’s Primal Vow, and being grateful for Amida’s great benevolence to grasp and never abandon us.

Using visuals, Rev. Yuki Sugahara gave an informative and educational lecture that was clear and down-to-earth. For example, he explained the aspects of shinjin called the “Threefold Mind.” This teaching of Shinran explains that the person of shinjin has three characteristics: 1) a sincere mind (true and real mind), 2) entrusting heart (completely untainted by the hindrance of doubt) and 3) an aspiration for birth (grateful anticipation that one will surely be born).

To illustrate, Rev. Sugahara used the familiar imagery of computer file folders. Entrusting Heart, or shinjin, is the main file folder. The Shinjin folder contains three subfolders: Sincere Mind, Entrusting Heart, and Aspiration for Birth. This way of looking at it made it clear to me.

Participants asked questions and expressed their opinions throughout, and some interesting discussions arose. Toward the end of the discussion period, Rev. Sugahara said that he’s been spending his time during the COVID lockdown adding content to the Oregon



Attendees at the Nembutsu Seminar included six ministers. In the back row (left to right starting fifth from left) Rev. Blayne Higa, Rev. Satoshi Tomioka (on Zoom), Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Rev. Masanari Yamagishi, Rev. Joshin Kamuro, and Rimban Rev. Kazunori Takahashi. (Photo courtesy of Rimban Takahashi)

Buddhist Temple’s website. He has created hundreds of short, informative Shin Buddhist videos in English and Japanese, including Dharma talks, chanting, and even odori (dance) and exercise videos. Rev. Sugahara performs gathas on his electric guitar with the words on the screen. He showed a YouTube video of himself performing “Shinran Sama.” It was a very soothing rendition, and many attendees sang along. Singing, even while wearing masks, was so nice after such a long time of silent listening due to COVID

pandemic restrictions.

Lunch gave us a chance to meet each other and have small group discussions while enjoying a bento ordered from a popular local take-out restaurant.

After lunch the discussion continued. Two seekers asked questions about Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. A young woman said she had come from a Christian background but was exploring Buddhism. She pointed out positive similarities between Buddhism and Christianity, adding an interfaith perspective to the

meeting.

Most attendees came in person, while a few people including Rev. Satoshi Tomioka of the Puna Hongwanji joined on Zoom. Rimban Kazunori Takahashi and Rev. Joshin Kamuro from Hilo Betsuin, Rev. Blayne Higa from Kona Hongwanji, and Rev. Masanari Yamagishi, newly assigned to Kamuela Hongwanji, attended in person and contributed their help and guidance during the seminar. It was a great event spent learning about and sharing the Dharma.

High Honors for Honorary Consul

2022 Spring Imperial Decoration Awarded to Mr. Arthur Katsumi Taniguchi

On Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at the Consul General’s Official Residence, Mr. Arthur Katsumi Taniguchi, Honorary Consul of Japan in Hilo, was conferred the 2022 Spring Imperial Decoration, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, for his contributions to promote interregional exchanges and friendship between Japan and the United States.

For 11 years, as the Honorary Consul of Japan in Hilo, Mr. Arthur Katsumi Taniguchi has been a vital connection, bridging together and supporting the activities of the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu with the Big Island of Hawaii. He has actively participated with the Japanese Community

Association of Hawaii and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii for over 20 years, serving as president of both organizations. Honorary Consul Taniguchi made significant contributions to the promotion of Japan-Hawaii relations.

At the ceremony, Consul General Aoki delivered a congratulatory message and expressed his gratitude for Mr. Taniguchi’s long-standing contribution to promote friendship between Japan and Hawaii, followed by the conferment ceremony. Mr. Taniguchi also delivered a speech, then, Mr. Goya, the past president of the Hawaii Japanese American Chamber of Commerce, delivered a congratulatory address on behalf of the guests.

Mr. Taniguchi stated



Consul General Aoki and Mrs. Aoki, Mr. and Mrs. Taniguchi and Bishop Rev. Eric Matsumoto (Courtesy of Bishop Matsumoto)

that he enjoyed working on promoting the friendship between Japan and the United States as Honorary

Consul of Japan in Hilo, through visits of dignitaries from Japan to the Big Island as well as exchanges

between Japan and the Big Island.

The program for the Conferment Ceremony was as follows:

- Opening Remarks – Consul General Yutaka Aoki
- Conferment the Decoration – Consul General Yutaka Aoki
- Recipient’s Speech – Mr. Arthur Katsumi Taniguchi
- Guest’s Speech – Mr. Tommy Goya, past president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce on the Island of Hawaii
- Congratulatory Address – Mr. Dwayne Mukai, President of Japanese Community Association of Hawaii

Reprinted from Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu website

Kapa’a Hongwanji celebrates 100 years

By **DENNIS FUJIMOTO**
THE GARDEN ISLAND

KAPA’A — The Kapa’a Hongwanji Mission celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sunday with a special commemorative service officiated by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai’i Bishop Eric Matsumoto.

More than a hundred years ago, the first-generation immigrants arrived from Japan, settling in different parts of Kaua’i to work on the plantations. Their arrival in Hawai’i was accompanied by Shin Buddhism that celebrated its first Jodo Shinshu Buddhist

service in the kingdom on March 3, 1889, making it one of the oldest continuous living Buddhist traditions in America.

“Many settled on the Eastside of the island in the towns of Kealia and Kapa’a. They faced a difficult life working on the plantations with meager wages and poor housing,” said the Rev. Mieko Majima of the Kapa’a Hongwanji.

“Despite these hardships, the first generation never forgot their Jodo Shinshu upbringing. During the early years, they met at homes to organize their mission and, later, though their relentless effort, a temple was established in Kapa’a in 1922 where they could continue

to gather and listen to the Dharma, or the teaching of Buddhism,” she said.

Matsumoto received support and help from Majima and Rev. Tomo Hojo of West Kauai Hongwanji Mission, who coordinated the centennial observance, and previous ministers who tenured at the Kapa’a Hongwanji Mission. That included the Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, who now serves at the Hilo Betsuin, the Rev. Shinkai Murakami and the Rev. Shawn Yagi, who recently took over as the minister at the Lihu’e Hongwanji Mission.

Kapa’a Hongwanji, one of about three dozen churches affiliated with the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai’i Bishop Eric Matsumoto, in orange robe, officiated the centennial service for the Kapa’a Hongwanji Mission on Sunday (October 23, 2022). (Courtesy of Dennis Fujimoto / The Garden Island)

Hawai’i, first sprouted as the Kealia Hongwanji’s Fukyojo branch in 1910 before becoming independent after its first temple was constructed in September 1922 on land leased from the

County of Kaua’i, with the Rev. Yoshio Ito taking charge for a year.

The temple was destroyed by a fire in 1929,

SEE PAGE 7

Pacific Buddhist Academy Celebrates 15th Lighting Our Way Banquet

By MEGAN LEE, DIRECTOR OF
ADVANCEMENT, PACIFIC BUD-
DHIST ACADEMY

Emceeding events for Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA) is always fun, but PBA's 15th Lighting Our Way Banquet was an especially meaningful event for me and the school, as all five honorees—Dr. David Lassner, Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch, Pieper and Lois Toyama, and the Pacific American Foundation—have made incredible contributions to education in Hawaii.

PBA honored these individuals and Native Hawaiian educational organization at the Waialae Country Club on Friday, October 7. Although this was our 15th celebration of community peace leaders and organizations, it was our first since 2019, since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted so many public gatherings.

The Lighting Our Way Banquet was started by PBA in 2006. Since then, PBA has honored important political leaders including former Governor George Ariyoshi, Hawaiian cultural practitioners and thought leaders like Haunani Apoliona and Puanani Burgess, business leaders such as former president of Central Pacific Bank John Dean, journalists like Daniel Pearl and Leslie Wilcox, attorneys like Louise K.Y. Ing, educators such as Robert Witt, Robert Peters and Maya Soetoro-Ng, Shin Buddhist religious leaders like the late Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani, and organizations such as Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services and the

Japanese-American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter.

In 2010, we made a key adjustment to our event planning process by involving our senior class in carrying out the event. Since then, led by advisors and teachers at the school, seniors have researched the honorees' careers, designed and conducted interviews with the honorees, often at their workplaces and homes, composed short narratives used for the banquet program, and introduced the honorees to the audience assembled.

The result of this planning change, of turning the Lighting Our Way Banquet into an important learning and leadership activity for PBA seniors, was nothing short of transformative. This experiential learning opportunity helps our students understand the causes leading the community leaders to make the choices they made. The interview process gives students a face-to-face opportunity to understand the real world benefits the honorees have had for our community. And most importantly, the Lighting Our Way Banquet process provides for PBA seniors positive role models. They meet the real people and organizations that were once just like them.

The process humanizes the possibility of being a positive agent in our community, and it makes the idea of peace practice more tangible.

The process also adds a real warmth to the event itself, as the honorees make connections with students at our school.

I've loved being part of each banquet, but this year's



Honorees and participants (left to right): Pieper Toyama, Chad Okawa, Evan Yasutake, Lois Toyama, and Madison Watanabe. (Courtesy of Pacific Buddhist Academy)

event was especially meaningful as PBA took the opportunity to honor our founding head of school and his wife, Pieper and Lois Toyama.

The Toyamas and my poetry mentor, Big Island poet Garrett Hongo, are responsible for my presence in Hawaii. It was Garrett who sent me to interview with Pieper in 2001 when Pieper was still head of school at Parker School, and in no small way, Lois influenced my decision to move to Oahu when Pieper recruited me to help launch PBA, as she had been very kind to me when I went for dinner at their Big Island home.

There is nothing more gratifying for an educator than to see students perform strongly, so I was particularly moved by senior Madison Watanabe's flawless introduction, Loren Otake's leading of the traditional Japanese firemen's chant "Kiyari," and Hyaku Sen Ki Kai Taiko's heart-stirring performance of "Miyake," one of Pieper's favorite numbers.

These set the stage for what were really special messages given to us by Lois and Pieper both. I have always looked to the messages from the honorees for direction and guidance as we consider the direction of our school. All of the honorees spoke meaningfully. Lois's and Pieper's messages touched us at our cores.

For those of you who were not able to attend the 2022 Lighting Our Way, we include Lois's and Pieper's written remarks below.

LIGHTING OUR WAY
- October 7, 2022

Acceptance Remarks by
Lois Toyama

Thank you so much for recognizing us with this honor. I am truly humbled.

Thank you to the student interview committee who made us feel so comfortable and who asked interesting and thought-provoking questions.

Thank you to Pacific Buddhist Academy students and staff who have partnered with the Buddhist

Women's Associations for many years to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to support equal rights for all.

Thank you to the Buddhist Women's Association members who initiate and support activities that benefit our temples and our communities.

Thank you to our Hongwanji Sangha and ministers who taught me that "just as you are" is enough. I'm still working on that!

Thank you to our family who traveled from Colorado, Arizona, California, and Honolulu to share this special evening with us.

Okagesama de.
Arigatai

LIGHTING OUR WAY
- October 7, 2022

Acceptance Remarks by
Pieper Toyama

Good evening. I am honored to join Lois in this Awards Banquet tonight. I wish to thank the Pacific Buddhist Academy's Staff and Board of Trustees for this very special evening.

The notion that a person's actions symbolize light shining upon a darkened path is poetic and offers inspiration to travelers on their journey. The image implies the light of inspiration emanates from actions powered by a person's commitment, perseverance, creativity, and intellect. And that such actions deserve to be recognized. The Pacific Buddhist Academy has done an extraordinary job over the years in using this symbol of light to celebrate people and community organizations that are Lighting Our Way.

SEE PAGE 8

"Green Dreams" for an Earth Touching Sangha

"We are here to awaken from the illusion of our separateness." – Thich Nhat Hanh



We experience rapid, extreme environmental change as crises, and when our environment is in crisis, we suffer. We depend on the environment for everything, including stable climate, public health, clean air and water, energy, fertile soil, healthy food, land and sea resources, and the biodiversity that underlies sustainability. Environmental crises give rise to social, economic, political, and spiritual crises that in turn further degrade the environment. We are inescapably interdependent with the environments that we abuse as well as with the environments that we protect.

The causes of environmental crises are not external threats, we do this to ourselves. As our sheer numbers, consumer expectations, and developing technologies combine to overwhelm natural systems, we are witnessing an era of transition from life defined by natural processes to environments defined by human activity. Sadly, it is increas-

ingly clear that greed, anger, ignorance, and ego-driven human activities are out of harmony with sustainable natural systems. Meanwhile, global responses to environmental degradation remain inadequate and directed largely at symptoms rather than causes.

As Buddhists, we see a way forward. We see that environmental harmony arises from interdependence and from addressing root causes of environmental crises – our own greed, anger, and ignorance. We see that inner transformation, from ego-driven thinking to Dharma-guided entrusting, prepares us to understand and commit to wise, compassionate, effective action for environmental harmony. Just as Buddha touched the Earth as bearing witness to Enlightenment, so we touch the Earth to bear witness to Dharma guidance that inspires us to engage in skillful environmental

action as an Earth Touching Sangha.

David Loy said, "Engagement in the world is how our personal awakening blossoms." As we go to the Dharma for guidance to live in harmony and sustainability with our precious planet, we commit to the following:

- understanding the inherently interdependent, holistic nature of Buddhism;
- transforming environmental actions by first transforming environmental thinking;
- teaching clean, healthy, sustainable environments as a basic human right;
- acting effectively, always informed by Cause/Effect and scientific best practices;
- supporting sustainable societies based on social/economic/environmental equity, universal human rights, respect for nature and for future generations, and a culture of peace.

In Gassho,
Bishop Eric Matsumoto,
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, a Shin Buddhist Denomination of Pure Land Buddhism; Steve Puhse, Chair, HHMH Green Hongwanji Committee (GHC)

Mahalo to Our Donors!

As we present this fifth edition of *Ka Leo Kāhea*, we would like to thank and recognize the people who have so generously donated to help fund this effort. The name of the newsletter is a reference to our Shin Buddhist teaching that reminds us of "Namo Amida Butsu" – the voice of Amida calling to us and our voice calling to Amida in response.

Ka Leo Kāhea informs and connects us with every member of our statewide Sangha. Through this connection, temples and districts will learn from and help each other, thus strengthening our organization. Thank you to:

Tsuyako Fujitani, Janet Gusukuma, Jikoen Hongwanji Mission, Kazuo Kamei, Kapaa Hongwanji Mission, Lorna K. Kawahara, Mataichi

"Danny" and Catherine A. Kosora, Nora C. Koyanagi, Tokimi M. Miyatake, Fujiko Motobu, Violet H. Muraoka, Ray and Carolyn Nakagawa, Maude M. Nii, Daikichi "Bob" and Joyce Nishita, Sharon Nohara, Frederick S. Nonaka, Masako K. Sakata, Harry H. and Doris M. Shibuya, Mabel T. Shishido, Sumie Sueishi, Asano M. Suizu, Ellen Sunouchi, Wendell and Leatrice K. Suzuki, Leslie and Sybil Ann Tawata, Bo and Elsie Tep, Sumiko Tokumaru, Junko Iwao Toll, Sallee Unger, Amy H. Yamada, Ranko Yamada, Roy S. and Linda Y. Yamaguchi

Please contact us so that we can make corrections for any errors or omissions at newsletter@honpahi.org. The preceding list includes donations received up until September 15, 2022.



Enjoy reading the inaugural issue of *Ka Leo Kāhea*? Please support our quarterly publication with a donation. You may use the QR code or mail a check to HHMH.

Windward Mall Bon Dance Festival Attracts Huge Crowd

By MERLE TASHIRO
WINDWARD BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Windward Buddhist Temple (WBT) partnered with Windward Mall in Kaneohe for their Bon Dance Festival held on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji also took part in the community event that ran from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This was the second year WBT participated in the Mall's bon dance festival.

WBT's *yagura* (musicians' stand) graced the mall's center court with colorful lanterns strung overhead. The Bon Dance opened with both Reverend Dr. Bert Sumikawa (Windward Buddhist Temple) and Reverend Marcos Sawada (Higashi Hongwanji Temple) chanting the "Sanbujo" and scattering flowers. (The scattering of flowers acknowledges the presence of Amida Buddha, Shakyamuni Buddha and all the buddhas of the ten directions. Whenever Shakyamuni Buddha went into a town to give his dharma message, the people scattered flowers on the ground to welcome him).

The bon dance drew a huge crowd to Windward Mall. People came from all over the island to enjoy the dancing, eating, shopping, and comradery



The bon dance at the mall introduced the Windward Buddhist Temple to the community. (Courtesy of Ryan Miyamoto and Merle Tashiro)

that the bon dance offered. The experience was a mixture of recorded and live music by Aiea Taiheiji Yagura Gumi, and Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu. Seasoned dance groups, Koolau Sakura Odori Kai and Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai, led dancers through the various songs. Many spectators joined in the dancing, especially when live music was performed. For some it was *natsukashii* (nostalgic) – a reminder of dancing when they were teenagers, perhaps on neighbor islands.

The WBT "sales area" featured numerous foods such as *andagi* freshly made on site, various homemade baked goods, our well known *takuan* and *bitter melon namasu*. WBT members also made *nenju*, greeting cards, and framed *bodhi* leaves for sale. A

popular item, especially among the children, were the fans that could be colored and personalized. As a side note, the demand for the *andagi* was so great that it created an extensive line. We were grateful that our customers were very patient and understanding.

WBT is a small temple located in Kailua, Oahu. Our members come from Kailua, Kaneohe, Waimanalo, and Honolulu. The success of this project is a tribute to our members, family, and friends who worked together on planning, preparation, and sales for the bon dance. The event provided us with an opportunity to introduce the community to WBT and to let them know that we are here for them on the windward side of Oahu. *E komo mai!*

In Memoriam

Rev. Sandra Sanae Hiramatsu
(1950-2022)

We are deeply saddened by the passing of the Reverend Sandra Sanae Hiramatsu, a former minister of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. She passed away on February 18, 2022 at Pali Momi Hospital in Aiea, Hawaii, at the age of 71. A private memorial service was held by her family.

Rev. Hiramatsu started her ministerial career in March of 1982 and continued until her resignation in 1995. She served at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Kailua Hongwanji Mission (dba as Windward Buddhist Temple), and as Youth Activities Specialist at the HHMH Headquarters Office. She is most



Rev. Sandra Sanae Hiramatsu
(Courtesy of Hiramatsu Family)

remembered for composing the chantable English version of the Junirai or the "Twelve Homages" and as the founder of YESS Camp (Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers), a popular youth camp which is highly treasured by our

organization and especially by the youth.

Her Dharma Name (Homyo) is "Disciple of the Buddha Clear Discernment" or 釈暁了 (Shaku Gyou-Ryou) and, in recognition of and gratitude for her outstanding dedication and commitment to sharing the Jodo Shinshu Teachings, she was conferred the Posthumous Title (Ingo), "One Who Widely Transmitted the Dharma" or 弘宣院 (Gu-Sen-In).

As we express our condolences to her family and close friends, and although we miss her, we live in joyous awareness of her birth in Amida Buddha's Pure Land. Namo Amida Butsu.

this tournament is rotated. We encourage these clubs to continue to preserve their history so future generations can appreciate the club beginnings.

I would like to quote the late Bishop Chitoku Morikawa. The quote was taken from the November 26, 1959 second annual Honpa Judo Tournament booklet. His words hold true meaning then as they do now.

"Through vigorous physical training, judo cultivates a sound mind and body and ultimately a sound character. In order to prepare the youth of today for the many challenges of the complicated world of tomorrow,

we must see that proper guidance is offered to them in every way possible. Thackery once summed up the creative effect of mind as follows: 'Sow a thought and reap an action, sow an action and reap a habit and reap character, sow character and reap destiny.' May the young Judokas continue to earnestly strive for better tomorrow for themselves and for all humankind."

In closing, judo has been a very significant part of the Hongwanji temples. It has built character, and taught respect and humility in our youth. It is these youth who will provide leadership for the future.

Bishop

Continued from Page 2

non-violence, self-reflection and peaceful cooperation."

In 2015, a Denominational Strategic Plan called the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha General Promotion Plan was developed by Honzan. It is the organizational policy guiding us in our endeavors for the ten-year period from 2015-2025. It is available on the HHMH Intranet. Among other things, the "Ten-year Plan," touches upon the need to look for financial stability.

In 2016, the Plan was shared by the Office of the Bishop at the Legislative Assembly (Giseikai) in hopes that temples would proactively pursue this need and other areas of importance. At Headquarters, we proceeded to form the Alternate Income Committee (currently chaired by Steven Yamami with tremendous support provided by Irene Nakamoto and others) to start the discussion and initiate the effort for the search of non-traditional sources of revenue to sustain ourselves. Traditional fundraising methods such as bazaars, food sales, craft sales and so forth are labor intensive and highly dependent on large numbers of people.

In the past few years, the effort has gained momentum. In 2022, under the auspices of our State Kyodan President Dr. Warren Tamamoto with support from the United Lay Association of Oahu, we passed a resolution at the Legislative Assembly to establish an Annual Endowment Campaign. The Office of the Bishop and the State President is pleased to announce that we plan to launch it in 2023. The Campaign includes a Planned Giving Program available for temples to utilize as well as for the umbrella HHMH organization.

Today, I write this article to introduce the beginning of the upcoming Annual Endowment Campaign in 2023 including a Planned Giving Program with an earnest plea for your *kokua* dana. It is of vital importance that we attain financial stability right now! We have benefitted from the generosity of people in the past. We have received significant gifts from members and friends who included us in their wills or trusts, and we thank you very much! However, at this time, we would like embark on a conscious endeavor to reach out and encourage all of you, our members,

supporters, and friends, to consider a gift that would ensure the continuity of the presence of HHMH in Hawaii Nei for the next 100 years and even beyond.

Your *kokua* dana will realize the aim of our continuing to be a caring presence in Hawaii by supporting our religious, spiritual, educational, social, cultural, and charitable contributions to help other worthy organizations and entities. Of course, paramount among our contributions is the spiritual message of Amida Buddha's All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion, which teaches us to live each day meaningfully filled with awareness, joy and gratitude for the Buddha's immense Wisdom and Compassion, and promises the ultimate peace and happiness of all living beings with birth in the Pure Land of Enlightenment.

I recently came to understand that the Hawaiian word "kokua" has more meaning than I originally thought. It is more than just "to help or assist." It is very similar to the Sanskrit word "dana" which we often use in Buddhism, meaning selfless giving. It has a similar meaning and nuance. Thus, on this occasion, I humbly ask for your *kokua*. Please consider a gift from yourself, or in memory of a loved one, to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and/or your local temple. For more information, you can contact the Headquarters Office especially our Business Manager, Derrick Inouye.

We want the temple to be there for you and others (as it was for the first, second, and many third generations). We want to make sure that the messages of peace, harmony, inclusivity, mutual respect and appreciation, and especially Enlightened Unconditional Wisdom and Compassion to attain Supreme Enlightenment, are continually available for all peoples throughout the State of Hawaii.

I conclude my message and plea with a quote of Shinran Shonin from one of his poems.

"I praise Amida's wisdom and virtue (great love and compassion and virtue)

So beings with mature conditions throughout the ten quarters may hear.

Let those who have already realized shinjin (Buddha Endowed Awakened Mind of True Entrusting)

Constantly respond in gratitude to the Buddha's benevolence."

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

Judo

Continued from Page 1

wanji on October 5, 1954 to become its minister and judo instructor. Some other ministers who came to Hawaii from Japan were also very capable judo instructors.

Currently there are nine Hongwanji temples with judo clubs. On Oahu: Aiea, Hawaii Betsuin, Mililani, Pearl City. On Maui: Makawao, Wailuku. On the Big Island: Kona, Hilo Betsuin, Puna.

The annual Hawaii Betsuin Hongwanji Championship Judo Tournament is held among these clubs each year and the host club for

Kapaa

Continued from Page 5

leading to three parcels of land being purchased from the Territory of Hawai'i, where the Young Buddhists of America hall was constructed, and a new temple built in 1938.

World War II brought difficult times to Buddhist ministers in Hawai'i, and in December 1941, the Rev. Hironori Nishie was sent to a relocation camp on the mainland. During his absence, Jihei Miura was elected to care for the temple's butsudhan when all facilities were used by the United States Army as officers' headquarters. This was a time when all proper-

ties belonging to Kapa'a Hongwanji were deeded to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i.

In 1974, the Kealia Hongwanji closed, and its 30 members became part of the Kapa'a Hongwanji, along with Buddhists in Kilauea and Hanalei.

"We are truly grateful to the founders and members of Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission, and pay tribute to their many accomplishments over the century," Majima said. "Let us not forget these members and friends, who have been strong role models for all of us, and continue their legacy to the next generation."

Reprinted with permission and updated for accuracy.

Kapa'a Receives Interfaith Alliance Hawaii Award

By Rev. MIEKO MAJIMA
KAPA'A HONGWANJI MISSION

On Saturday, September 17, 2022, the Kapa'a Interfaith Association (KIA) received an award from The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii. On October 17, 2022, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii group and the Washington representative delivered the crystal trophy in person. The ceremony was held in person by a delegation from Oahu and a representative from The Interfaith Alliance in Washington, DC.

"I'm so excited, my hands are shaky, and I'm having a hard time holding this," said Sarah Rogers of All Saints' Episcopal Church.

The mission of The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii is to provide a positive and healing role in Hawaii with people of faith, good will, and aloha, encouraging nonviolent civic participation, facilitating community activism, and challenging religious and political extremism.

Each year TIAH offers awards to organizations and individuals in the following categories: Healing Role in Hawaii, Encouraging Non-Violent Civic Participation, Facilitating Community

Activism, Challenging Religious or Political Extremism, and the Flame of Hope Award, which seeks to recognize a Hawaii resident who, through his or her witness and actions, has ignited or fanned a flame of hope in Hawaii.

KIA was a recognized for working together to present and serve the community with its annual Thanksgiving Day luncheon.

Member organizations of the KIA include the All Saints' Episcopal Church, the Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission Buddhist Temple, the Kapa'a Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Kapa'a United Church of Christ, the Kapa'a First Hawaiian Church, the Kapa'a Jodo Mission, the Lihue Hongwanji Mission, St. Catherine Church, and Happy Science.

The KIA member churches have been serving Thanksgiving Day lunch for the past 17 years. Last year, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, only two sites served meals. The Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission delivered approximately 700 meals to homebound families from Anahola to Lihue, and the All Saints' Episcopal Church distributed another 700 to 800 meals to families who could either walk-up or drive-thru.



In receipt of the award are (left to right) Roberta Yanagawa, Rev. Mieko Majima of the Kapa'a Hongwanji, and Sarah Rogers of All Saints Episcopal Church. (Courtesy Dennis Fujimoto / The Garden Island)

"It doesn't matter who you are," the KIA members always say. "We all get together and enjoy the meal."

The Kapa'a Hongwanji has been a member since the Kapa'a Interfaith Thanksgiving Luncheon Program was launched in 2003, and this tradition has been handed down by its resident ministers. Rev. Kazunori Takahashi was involved in the program early on. Later, as the resident minister of Lihue Hongwanji Mission, he recalled, "I started doing this when I was at the Kapa'a Hongwanji. When I was at

Kapa'a, I used to speak at the service. Now [as a minister at Lihue], I come and help deliver." That was a few years ago. Rev. Takahashi is currently the Rimban (head minister) at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin on the Big Island.

"We had a lot of volunteers wanting to help," said Mary Margaret Smith, a founding member. "And this does not include the 40 volunteers Mark Oyama brought to help serve the meals."

Smith said that Oyama and his crew from Mark's Place Kauai Restaurant and Contemporary Flavors

Catering have been participating the KIA Thanksgiving Day meal since 2008.

"We originally started at the Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission social hall back in 2003," she continued. "We had to stop when we lost the certified kitchen. And when we started up back in 2008, Mark came in and has been doing this with us ever since."

For last few years, KIA has struggled to find financial support. The Honpa Hongwanji Social Concerns Committee generously offered the KIA financial help for the annual Kapa'a Interfaith Association's Thanksgiving Luncheon last year. With this contribution, KIA could continue to make a difference in the Kapa'a community.

Every year, it is our deep joy to share togetherness with people on Thanksgiving Day. In Amida's embrace, we are grateful to continue serving our community in such a joyful way. It is also an excellent opportunity to work with other churches in our community.

We look forward to providing KIA Thanksgiving Luncheon Program to the community with your continuous support.

Namo Amida Butsu

PBA

Continued from Page 6

When I was invited to participate tonight, I began to reflect on the Buddhist reality behind the symbolism of Lighting Our Way... to reflect on the Buddhist reality of my personal actions. The Buddhist truth differs slightly than the traditional symbol underlying the Lighting Our Way concept. For Buddhism holds that my actions do not flow from personal intention and design or personal virtues. My every action, large and important, small and insignificant, is simply a part of a fabric woven from the threads of the actions of countless persons, known and unknown to me.

So, in reality, tonight, we honor these countless persons including Fred Nonaka who asked me to start the Pacific Buddhist Academy in 2003. We honor Takesaburo, my Uchinanchu grandfather, who tended the community furo in Wainaku Camp to make extra money to feed and educate his family...and Tom and Cris, my parents, who provided a happy plantation childhood for my two brothers and me, a childhood that prepared us step into the world... We honor Lois, my wife, who has been a thoughtful friend through our 53 years of marriage ... and my daughters, Malia and Eily, and their husband and wife, who have become the protective branches of the Toyama family that are allowing our grandchildren, the next generation to thrive.... We honor the Jikoen Sangha that has been a constant thread of joy in our lives.... And we especially honor the community of fellow teachers, students and their parents stretching back to 1969 who welcomed me into the most honored profession and called me Teacher.

I am grateful for this opportunity to celebrate these countless persons in my life, whose light I reflect. And I invite you to take this opportunity to quietly thank the countless persons in your life whose light you reflect.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Living Treasures

Continued from Page 1

States.

Mrs. Hiromi Nakai Peterson is Hibaku Nisei, a child of atomic bomb victims of World War II. As a high school Japanese language teacher, she led the publication of a five-volume textbook for high school students, *Adventures in Japanese*, the most widely used Japanese language textbook in the nation at the secondary school level.

Peter Young served as Chair of the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources. His community service includes local and national work relating to the environment, agriculture, cultural preservation, and business.

For information about sponsoring a table or purchasing tickets, please contact the HHMH HQ Office at 808 522-9200.

MTF

Continued from Page 2

these past four years here in Kyoto, Japan.

In order to properly share the teachings of our founder Shinran Shonin to the people of Hawaii, I have always felt it was important to learn as much as I could from the place Jodo Shinshu originated, Kyoto, Japan. With this monetary support, it first led me to Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin, which opened my eyes to a larger and deeper understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu.

While studying the texts of Shinran Shonin and the Seven Pure Land Masters, I was also learning how to properly perform rituals in the altar. And after completing my first year I went with my classmates and received Tokudo.

I continued in Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin for a second year,

furthering my studies of Jodo Shinshu texts while continuing to work on and improve my chanting skills and ritual movements within the altar. Finishing the second year, I was eligible for Kyoshi certification, but due to the pandemic that has affected all of us, I had to postpone my ordination. In 2021, I received Kyoshi.

As my original two-year study abroad plan was coming to an end, I had a meeting with Bishop Matsumoto, who fully supported my wish to continue to study here in Japan. After deliberating over the idea I decided to enter Ryukoku University. In the spring of 2021, I entered the University for their two-year Master's program. In graduate school we dive deeper into the teachings of Jodo Shinshu and debate on those impossible-to-answer questions, and we read the original works of many people, focusing on

how they relate to Jodo Shinshu.

Having come this far in my studies, I can say that I have learned a lot. While learning does not stop after I graduate, I feel that I am more prepared than ever before to share what I have learned and grow in the Nembutsu with everyone in Hawaii.

The Ministerial Training Fund from the HHMH has helped me with the promise I made to myself and Amida back in my high school years; that I would become a minister to share the Nembutsu in Hawaii. Fulfilling this promise would not have been possible without not only the Hongwanji's spiritual support, but most definitely, not without their monetary support. Through their generosity I am living a dream that I thought to be nearly impossible and for that I am forever grateful.

Blayne Nakasone

Honokaa

Continued from Page 1

Waimea Community Theater's presentation of the musical comedy, "Nonsense," raised nearly \$1,000 over one weekend at the temple's social hall. The temple continues to accept donations on their website - donors can use Paypal, credit cards, or mail checks.

Miles and the Honokaa Hongwanji hope that other temples, churches, organizations, or individuals will step up and 'adopt' one of two families recently introduced to them.

After their story aired on local TV news earlier this year, Miles was contacted by an O'ahu woman who knew of a single father from Ukraine, presently staying in Waikoloa (on the Big Island) with his young daughter. Dimitry is doing construction work in Kona, where his daughter goes to school, and he is seeking an affordable place

for them to live. A bit of financial support would go a long way to add stability to their situation.

Another Ukrainian 'ohana in need was referred by Veronika, one of the initial five families. She told them about a Ukraine Orthodox priest and his seven children, from ages 5 to 17, who had to evacuate the city of Lviv at the start of the war. Teachers from a remote village in Ukraine invited them to come and stay in one of the school buildings temporarily. Some repairs have been done, but they need to install new windows and doors, connect the internet, and restore the kitchen before winter sets in.

"The response to our project has been truly gratifying," says Miles. "People are coming forward who want to help in whatever ways they can. Just this past week I was contacted by a 13-year old student from Hawaii Preparatory Academy named Luci, who wants to do a community service project to help

Ukraine. We will be connecting her to some of our families, perhaps with children near her age, and supporting her efforts to raise funds and show compassion to these folks in their struggle."

As the holidays approach Miles and the Honoka'a Hongwanji plan to redouble their fundraising efforts. "Our goal is to provide all five of our families a very Merry Christmas, with a check for at least \$500 each," he says. "And we are hopeful that in this season of giving, people will want to contribute from their hearts, helping families who have lost their homes and virtually all of their material possessions."

For additional information or to make a donation, please visit www.honokaahongwanjibuddhisttemple.org. For more articles on the Honoka'a Hongwanji's assistance to Ukrainian families, see the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha International Center Luci, https://international.hongwanji.or.jp/html/2208_2.html.